Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Israel, Oman Decide To Open Interests Offices

TA0502061895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 5 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Israel and Oman have decided to open mutual interest sections. Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin met in the Jordanian port of al-'Aqabah last night with Omani Foreign Minister Yusuf Bin-'Alawi. Political sources in Jerusalem said the decision will influence other Gulf states to establish relations with Israel.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0600 GMT on 5 February adds that "Deputy Minister Beilin told our correspondent this morning that the meeting was planned before the Cairo summit took place and stressed Jordan's willingness to allow the meeting to be held in al-'Aqabah, although it did not take part in it. He added that the parties discussed various aspects of cooperation between Israel and Oman, including the water issue. Beilin said that a few more months will be needed before the formal shape of ties between the two countries is established."]

Following the meeting in Jordan, Foreign Minister Peres flew to Washington, where he will meet with President Clinton and take part in peace talks next Sunday with the Jordanian and Egyptian foreign ministers and representatives of the Palestinian Authority.

Israel, Palestinians Reach Accord on Gaza Port

TA0102182995 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 1 Feb 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Israeli and Palestinian sides have reached an agreement on the construction of a port in Gaza city. Construction of the port is to begin within the next few months. Dr. Majdi al-Khalidi, director general of the Palestinian Ministry of Planning, told our correspondent Hasan Abu-Zayid that the Palestinian Authority will receive the funds for the port's construction from the donor countries.

Economic Meeting Said To Cancel Boycott of Israel

JN0402113895 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 4 Feb 95 pp 1, 18

[Report by Amjad Mu'alla]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman—Engineer 'Ali Abu-al-Raghib, minister of industry and trade, has said that the trade ministers of Jordan, Egypt, Palestine, the United States, and Israel will meet in Cairo on Wednesday [8 February] to discuss a host of issues related to regional trade cooperation and encouragement of investment.

In an exclusive statement to AL-DUSTUR, Abu-al-Raghib said the most important topic of discussion will be the cancellation of the Arab boycott of Isarel in the light of the current peace developments, in addition to drafting a mechanism for coordination among the regional states in the various fields of tourism, investment, and environment. The broad lines of the Red Sea riviera between Egypt and Israel, which may extend to Syria, will also be discussed during the meeting. Senior official sources expected the ministers to issue a statement canceling the Arab boycott of Israel.

The five trade ministers will hold bilateral meetings on Tuesday, 7 February, to coordinate stands and exchange views prior to the five-way meeting.

AL-DUSTUR has learned that U.S. Secretary of Commerce Ronald Brown, accompanied by the Jordanian minister of industry and trade, will arrive in al-'Aqabah at the end of the Cairo meeting. Brown will meet with Jordanian officials to discuss bilateral relations and economic issues as well as the development projects that will be implemented in Jordan with the participation of the United States.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Egyptian, Palestinian, Jordanian Officials Meet

Discuss Refugee Situation

NC0402190895 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1800 GMT 4 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 4 Feb (MENA)—Egyptian, Jordanian, and Palestinian delegations began meetings at the Foreign Ministry this evening to discuss the question of the 1967 Palestinian refugees and ways to secure their return home. The Egyptian delegation is led by Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, the Jordanian delegation by Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti, and the Palestinian side by Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department.

The meetings seek to coordinate positions before the quadripartite meeting scheduled to be held in the last week of February among the three above-mentioned states plus Israel.

Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa hosted a banquet on short notice in honor of the Jordanian and Palestinian delegations.

Meeting Ends; Statement Issued

NC0502060895 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 4 Feb 95

[Statement issued by Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, Jordanian Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti,and PLO Political Department Chief Faruq Qaddumi following their meeting in Cairo on 4 February—read by announcer]

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[FBIS Translated Text] At the invitation of the Egyptian foreign minister, the foreign ministers of Jordan, Palestine, and Egypt have held a tripartite meeting to prepare for the meeting of the Egyptian-Jordanian-Palestinian-Israeli Quadripartite Committee to discuss the return of the Palestinian evacuees. The conferees underlined the importance of this topic, which relates to the right of return, since the Palestinian people have a right to tangible results from the peace process and concrete progress within its framework, and as it constitutes a step toward eliminating the consequences of the 1967 Israeli occupation and the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace.

During the meeting, the various aspects of the issue were discussed with a view to adopting a common view on the steps that need to be taken to facilitate the return of the evacuees and to proposing mechanisms for following up this subject so that the quadripartite meeting, proposed for the end of this month, can tangibly contribute to the actual return of the Palestinian evacuees. The Egyptian and Jordanian sides promised to release the necessary information available to them concerning this matter.

The conferees call upon the other countries who are hosting evacuees as well as the competent international institutions to provide any information and data they possess in this regard.

The conferees agreed to continue their discussion to assist in facilitating the necessary measures enabling the return of the evacuees as part of the peace process.

Musa Comments on Evacuees

NC0502062095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2200 GMT 4 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 4 Feb (MENA)—The foreign ministers of Egypt, Jordan, and Palestine have underlined the importance of the question of the return of the Palestinian evacuees. They noted that the Palestinian people have a right to tangible results and concrete progress from the peace process, and underscored the right of return as a step toward ending the consequences of the 1967 Israeli occupation and the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace.

The above-mentioned remarks came in a statement issued in Cairo this evening at the end of the tripartite meeting of Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, Jordanian Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti, and PLO Political Department Chief Faruq Qaddumi to prepare for the meeting of the Egyptian-Jordanian-Palestinian- Israeli Quadripartite Committee to discuss the return of the evacuees. [passage omitted]

In response to a question on the quadripartite meeting recently held in Cairo and whether it had resolved all the outstanding problems, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa stated that the meeting did not solve all the problems and that these problems were not expected to be solved in a few hours. He added: As demonstrated by the statement issued by the summit and the discussion held, it has been agreed to activate the Palestinian-Israeli peace process, which was threatened by stagnation, on the bases I explained the day before yesterday. The elections committee, he added, will meet on Monday [6 February], President 'Arafat and Prime Minister Rabin will meet at Erez on Thursday to discuss the outstanding problems, and a meeting will be held in Washington that will take into account the results of the Cairo and Erez meetings as well as the general framework of the Palestinian-Israeli ties so that the agreement can be thoroughly implemented without any retreat or reluctance.

The foreign minister pointed out that the meetings concerning the evacuees are for coordination purposes and will be followed by a four-way meeting. This is because the problem of the evacuees is a major issue, part of the peace process, and part of the efforts to activate the Palestinian-Israeli track and make it successful, he noted. He added that the quadripartite summit had good results and relaunched the peace process once again. As for the obstacles, they will be overcome within the framework of the current efforts and the coming talks, he added.

Musa added: We are talking about returning all the evacuees— according to the definition of the term evacuees—and facilitating their return within a specific timeframe, which is to be agreed upon. He added: We are talking about the return of these evacuees starting now. As for the timeframe, it will be agreed upon as part of the peace process and in parallel with the other steps related to achieving a Palestinian-Israeli peace.

For his part, PLO Political Department Chief Faruq Qaddumi answered a question about the date of his return to the self-rule area. He said: This will happen when Israel fully withdraws, a Palestinian state is established, and I have the honor of carrying a Palestinian passport. He added: I will not allow Yitzhaq Rabin to give me a permission to return.

Damascus Declaration States' Foreign Ministers Meet

Deliver Addresses

NC0502193095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1830 GMT 5 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 5 Feb (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said the Damascus Declaration countries' foreign ministers meeting in Cairo today provides an opportunity to assess the progress of cooperation among the declaration states, follow up on the latest developments in the region, and discuss the proposed papers that were agreed on during the last meeting.

Addressing the opening session this evening, Musa said these meetings between the eight member states undoubtedly offer a good opportunity for consultations and analyzing the region's situation.

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He noted that with their effectiveness, roles, and obligations in the Arab framework, the declaration countries are able to confront the challenges facing the region and to play a positive role in steering the region toward peace. He hoped these meetings would be successful.

Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah also addressed the session, expressing his hope that this meeting will emerge with resolutions serving the Arab nation.

He said the declaration countries are facing important issues, especially the events and developments in the Arab region that require continued consultations and coordination and increased cooperation among the Arab countries, particularly within the Damascus Declaration and the Arab League charter.

The Bahraini foreign minister emphasized the need to boost joint Arab action and restore Arab solidarity on sound bases guaranteeing its viability.

He thanked the Egyptian president, Government, and people for hosting this meeting and lauded Egypt's sincere efforts in the Arab nation's interest.

In his address, the Bahraini foreign minister said that since the signing of the Damascus Declaration in 1991 we have been holding meetings to exchange views on the issues stipulated in the declaration.

Referring to the political situation between Kuwait and Iraq, he said: Through our unified and decisive stances, we have been able to force Iraq toward implementing numerous Security Council resolutions concerning Kuwait.

He added: As far as establishing a fair and comprehensive peace in the Middle East, we still believe and affirm that peace in the region is a strategic option from the Arab point of view. We also believe and affirm that such a peace should be and remain as an indivisible whole. It should also lead to the liberation of all occupied Arab territories in Palestine, the Golan, and south Lebanon according to Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425 and the principle of land for peace adopted by the Madrid conference.

The Bahraini foreign minister continued: When we signed the Damascus Declaration we sought to achieve cooperation among all its member states in all spheres. Today we are facing other challenges represented in clearing Arab air and restoring Arab solidarity as a pressing and required goal at this stage on the bases of positive openness and frankness. He noted that this can only materialize by activating and consolidating the Arab League's role and that this has been confirmed by the Alexandria summit, which is regarded as a juncture between previous and future action.

Ending his speech, the Bahraini foreign minister said he hoped the meeting results will show a unified stance on the Arab nation's issues.

A closed session was then held to discuss the agenda.

Discuss Working Papers

NC0502214595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2045 GMT 5 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 5 Feb (MENA)—The Damascus Declaration countries' foreign ministers are discussing Egyptian and Gulf working papers to boost political and economic joint Arab cooperation to achieve a comprehensive cooperation among the declaration's eight member states.

The Egyptian paper is based on the Arab League principles and charter and on mutual respect for the Arab countries' sovereignty and territorial integrity. The paper stresses the goal of cooperation between the declaration countries to realize their nations' prosperity and hopes, particularly in the midst of the economic and political challenges facing the Arab nation.

The Egyptian paper contains steps to boost and coordinate stances between the declaration states to serve the Arab goal, including the possibility of establishing a mechanism to stop Arab disputes before they occur, a preventive diplomatic measure.

The Egyptian paper emphasizes the need to bolster economic cooperation among the declaration countries with respect for the principle of the sovereignty of each state over its natural and economic resources. The paper proposes the discussion of an idea to form an Arab economic partnership on objective and practical bases free of slogans and to have several tiers of organization. This body should meet periodically and begin from a meeting of the heads of state down to the level of ministerial meetings.

The Gulf countries' working paper calls on the Damascus Declaration states to be committed to the principle of collective, legitimate defense in case any Arab League member state comes under armed aggression.

The paper indicates that achieving security and stability for all Arab countries requires enhancing the principle of respect for the Arab countries' territorial integrity, prohibiting the confiscation of land by force, not interfering in internal affairs, and settling disputes by peaceful means according to the Arab League charter and UN laws.

Conclude Meeting

NC0502221295 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2145 GMT 5 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 5 Feb (MENA)—The first meeting of the Damascus Declaration countries' foreign ministers, which opened in Cairo earlier this evening, ended tonight.

The ministers are scheduled to hold a final session at noon tomorrow, Monday, after which a final communique will be released on the outcome of their meetings.

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Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said after the meeting that a drafting committee will prepare a draft final communique on the meetings. He added that some delegations offered proposals to boost cooperation between the declaration countries in various spheres.

He said the conferees reviewed the situation and developments in the region. Asked whether this was an ordinary meeting, he said it was an extraordinary one, in view of the serious situation facing the peace process. He added that the conferees discussed cooperation between three declaration states and their contribution to achieving stability in the region.

Syria's al-Shar' Views Meeting

NC0602064295 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2310 GMT 5 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 5 Feb (MENA)—Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has described the Damascus Declaration countries' meeting in Cairo today as good, frank, and serious. He said: We discussed various Arab issues, the peace process, relations among the eight member states, and ways to activate the Damascus Declaration.

In statements this evening, he added that the conferees held meetings and exchanged views on the world situation, nuclear weapons, Israel's possession of such weapons, and the best ways to render the Middle East a region free of all weapons of mass destruction.

He said the foreign ministers affirmed that peace should be just and comprehensive and based on international legitimacy resolutions and on the principle of land for peace.

The eight ministers also affirmed the importance of the Alexandria summit, which a communique was issued on recently.

He noted that the conference was satisfied with the outcome of the consultations between the eight ministers. He said the declaration countries' foreign ministers focused on the results of the Alexandria summit and its importance in reviving Arab solidarity and enhancing the Arab League's role.

Further on al-Shar' Statements

JN0602065295 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 6 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The foreign ministers of the Damascus Declaration states will resume their discussion of the issues listed on the agenda in Cairo at noon today. A final statement is expected to be issued at the end of today's meetings.

The closed meeting held by the eight foreign ministers of the Damascus Declaration states concluded at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry at midnight yesterday. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' took part in the meeting which discussed the issues listed on the agenda.

Following the meeting, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' told reporters: The meeting of the Damascus Declaration states at the foreign ministers' level was good, frank, and serious. Various Arab issues were discussed, foremost of which were the Middle East peace process and relations among the Declaration's eight states. Discussions also dealt with ways to activate the Damascus Declaration.

The foreign minister added that during the meeting consultations took place and opinions were exchanged on the international situation, nuclear weapons, Israel's possession of these weapons, and the best ways to render the Middle East region free of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons.

Al-Shar' said that the foreign ministers of the Damascus Declaration states stressed that peace should be just and comprehensive and should be established on the basis of international legitimacy resolutions and the land-for-peace principle.

Answering a question on the four-way summit held in Cairo, the foreign minister said: The Declaration's foreign ministers, including Syria, have stressed the importance of the Alexandria summit, which was recently held by Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Husni Mubarak and King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, and the statement it issued. The eight foreign ministers of the Damascus Declaration states adopted the contents of this statement.

Al-Shar' said that the foreign ministers of the Damascus Declaration states have focused in their discussions on the importance of the Alexandria summit results in terms of reviving Arab solidarity and activating the role of the Arab League.

For his part, Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said in a statement following the meeting that the drafting committee will prepare the final statement, which is expected to be issued this afternoon at the conclusion of the current round of meetings.

Participating in these meetings are the foreign ministers of Syria, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, the Sultanate of Oman, Bahrain, and Qatar.

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: 'AQIDATI 24 Jan

NC3101120895

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 24 January edition of the Arabic-language newspaper 'AQIDATI that pertain to political Islamic issues.

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MUFTI VIEWS U.S. TOUR

An approximately 450-word report by Mahmud 'Ushb on page 2 quotes Mufti Dr. Muhammad Sayyid Tantawi as saying that the purpose of his U.S. tour was to clarify the wrong "impression" of some Americans that Islam calls for "murder, aggression, and the abuse of others." Another purpose, adds the mufti, was to explain that Muslims and Christians in Egypt have been living together for hundreds of years, joined by common interests. In his remarks to 'AQIDATI, Mufti Tantawi notes that religious freedom in the United States is guaranteed for all religions without "harassment" and that mosques, churches, and synagogues are open to the public without restriction.

AL-GHAZALI DEFENDS WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN ISLAM

Renowned Islamic preacher Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali, in an approximately 600-word article on page 6, discusses preachers' shortcomings in handling women's problems in Islamic society. He suggests that most preachers, given the chance, would order women to stay locked up in their homes and deny them their material and other rights. An example of this is the denial of women's rights to perform their religious rites, such as prayers. He adds: "There are approximately 17,000 mosques throughout Egypt that do not welcome women and in which there are private doors for women." He points out that this attitude has encouraged some advocates of women's liberation to commit "folly" and even to abandon Islam.

EGYPT URGED TO LEAD CAMPAIGN TO DEFEND ISLAM

Former Ambassador 'Amr 'Abd-al-Latif Hashim, in an approximately 500-word article on page 6, discusses what he believes to be an "unjust campaign waged by the enemies of Islam abroad" against the religion. He points out that although many writers and intellectuals in Egypt and elsewhere have reacted to this campaign, this effort will not be enough to defend Islam if it is not coupled by a similar effort abroad to refute the allegations. He adds: "It is high time that Egypt, as the center of Islamic illumination, led a counteroffensive to defend Islam and explain its essence in non- Islamic countries." The writer adds: This is particularly true, since the vast majority of non-Muslim people have the wrong impression about Islam, never mind that some people, who do not wish us to advance, seize the opportunity provided by our shortcomings to propagate the message to undermine Islam for political reasons.

AL-AZHAR IMAM SAYS JERUSALEM HISTORICALLY ARAB

The grand imam of al-Azhar, Shaykh Jad-al-Haqq 'Ali Jad-al-Haqq, in an approximately 800-word article on page 7 entitled "The Arab, Islamic Jerusalem, and the Facts of History," says that Jerusalem is an Arab city and that Arab dwellers coming from the Arab peninsula have used it as their home since approximately 3,000 years B.C. Following the Hebrews' 40 years in the wilderness they entered the city in approximately 1048 B.C., that is, around 2,000 years after it came into existence. Their "usurpation" lasted until they were evicted to Babylon in 559 B.C., he adds, saying that this confirms that the Jews' presence in Jerusalem came approximately 20 centuries after the advent of its original inhabitants of Arab origin, who came from the Arab peninsula, he notes. Shaykh Jad-al-Haqq adds: "Proof of the Jews' weak links with Palestine is that when the modern Zionist leaders started to think of building a homeland, some of them wanted to go to countries other than Palestine. But the colonialists hastened to link their interests with the Zionist plans, thus resulting in the tragedy experienced by Palestine and its holy Jerusalem." After reviewing the religious significance of Jerusalem and the al-Aqsa Mosque for the Muslims, he points out that the leaders of the Islamic nation must intensify their efforts, close their ranks, rise above differences, and be confident that what they stand to gain from their unity exceeds any other gains. He points out that the world, which is against racism, must realize that Muslims are now being subjected to "racial persecution" and that Jerusalem and its al-Aqsa Mosque are the target of a "genocide" that is no less brutal than that experienced by the Jews in Europe. The imam tells Arabs and Muslims: "No one but you will restore the al-Aqsa Mosque and release it from captivity. So get together, love each other, and get closer."

MUSLIMS' TRAGEDY IN CHECHNYA ANALYZED

An approximately 500-word unattributed report on a seminar held in Cairo on the crisis in Chechnya is published on page 21. Seminar participants voiced their opinion that the crisis in Chechnya will not be the last conspiracy against Islam, but the beginning of the disintegration of the Russian Federation. Dr. 'Abd-al-Sabur Marzuq, secretary general of the Higher Council for Islamic Affairs, notes that the information carried by the media on the Chechnya war does not give an adequate picture of the victories achieved by Muslims there. He points out that this situation could be the beginning of an

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"overall Islamic awakening in the Islamic world to end the humiliating conditions" in which the Muslims live. Islamic thinker Dr. Muhammad 'Amarah points out that the tragedy of the Chechen has rekindled the Muslims' sense of solidarity. He wonders why Muslim minorities, unlike other minorities, are denied the right to self-determination. This shows that the conspiracy against the Islamic peoples is universal and ancient, not new, he adds.

ISRAEL SEEN AS WAR SOCIETY

An approximately 600-word column on page 10 entitled "The Peace of War in Israel," written by a columnist identified only by the initials "M.S.," says that recent remarks by Rabin that Israel should be prepared for war in the coming few years must not be dismissed as catering to "domestic consumption," but need to be examined by political and military research centers. The writer says he believes that those who try to explain that these remarks are for Israel's domestic audience are right about one thing: "Israeli society is a war society and for them peace is merely a tactical step in their military strategy." If this is the case, the writer asks, how could we be expected to trust any attempt by the United States to help its ally overcome the recent crisis and how could we be expected to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and disregard Israel's refusal to do the same?

OFFICIAL VIEWS EXTREMISM, ISLAMIC MEDIA

An approximately 1,500-word interview with Dr. 'Abd-al-Qadir Hatim, former deputy premier and current chairman of the Specialized National Councils, an Egyptian think tank, by unidentified correspondents is published on page 10. In the interview Dr. Hatim discusses extremism, the effect of Western media on society, and Islamic media among other issues. On extremism, Dr. Hatim notes that confronting extremism must rely on scientific methods based on persuasion and debate, to learn the reasons for this phenomenon and how to remedy it. He points out that security measures must come last and only when necessary, since pressure may increase, not decrease, the number of extremists and could strengthen extremist ideas. On the impact of direct broadcasting and Western media on our society, Dr. Hatim suggests that neither a complete ban on importing equipment for receiving direct broadcast television signals nor complete freedom to import equipment would be the right way to handle this issue. Instead "organized control" in importing these devices, as deemed fit by national interests, is the right approach. Efforts must be made to upgrade our programs to compete with foreign channels without contradicting our religious beliefs. On the role of Islamic media in improving Islam's image in the West, Dr. Hatim points out that Islam's negative image in the West is the fault of the Muslims themselves. Improving Islam's image requires the use of new techniques in propagation based on modern technology and the need to set up an apparatus for Islamic media, he concludes.

ISLAMIC ACTIVITY IGNORED AT BOOK FAIR

An approximately 800-word report by Jamal Salim on page 11 laments the absence of Islamic activity at the Cairo Book Fair. Salim points out that although Islamic books have outranked other books in sales, the Book Authority ignored and even undermined Islamic activity at the fair. The only Islamic seminar scheduled at the fair was supposed to discuss the role of Islam in the changing world. Instead the title of the seminar was changed to "The Moderation of Islam." A visit to the fair by renowned Islamic scholar Dr. Yusuf al-Qaradawi turned into a public seminar in the open air. The fair's visitors surrounded him and asked him and other ulema to confront the "ferocious secularist campaigns" against Islam, as demonstrated by the absence of Islamic seminars at the fair. Dr. al-Qaradawi denounced this "secularism conspiracy" and called on the ulema to confront it.

ARTISTS DEFEND AL-AZHAR CENSORSHIP ROLE

The row over a court ruling banning the screening of the film The Emigrant by Director Yusuf Shahin continues to generate reaction from the public. On page 18, artists view the controversial issue. Writer 'Abd-al-Salam Amin says he believes that people are free to express themselves through works of art as long as they do not violate moral and religious limits. He defends al-Azhar's role in scrutinizing artistic work on the grounds that the absence of scrutiny would lead to anarchy. Actress Madihah Hamdi points out that freedom of creativity must proceed from compliance with the teachings of religion. Director Dr. Hisham Abu-al-Nasr says he believes that if freedom conflicts with creed or with religion, it will result in chaos.

NETANYA OPERATION SEEN AS MESSAGE OF PEACE TO ISRAEL

An approximately 700-word unattributed report on the Netanya bombing in Israel on 22 January is published on page 21. The report, entitled the "Netanya Operation Is a Message of Peace to Israel," states that the operation carries "a clear signal to the Israeli prime minister—highlighting the need to expedite the implementation of the self-rule agreement, grant the Palestinians their rights, end the acts of violence against them, and release their prisoners, chief among them crippled leader Shaykh Ahmad Yasin." The report adds that the Netanya operation came in reply to earlier violent acts by Israel, such as the killing of Palestinian policemen in December and the "assassination" of Islamic Jihad leader Hani 'Abdallah at the end of 1994. The report calls on the Israeli prime minister to abandon his "mistaken" calculations, refrain from trying to court Israel's "fanatic" rightwingers, and hasten to implement the Oslo and Cairo Peace Agreements, saying that this is the only way to stem the "rivers of blood" for both Palestinians and Israelis.

ISLAM'S ROLE IN NEW WORLD EXAMINED

A conference on Islam and Arab culture in the new world, which was held in Cairo last week, is discussed in

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an approximately 500-word report on page 11. The unattributed report notes that the delegates discussed the need for Muslims to return to their roots, the need for adopting a modern and easy-to-understand jurisprudence, and how to handle Western culture and the technological invasion. The conference, which was organized by the King Faysal Charity Institution in conjunction with al-Azhar University, was attended by the ulema and Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic. In his speech, Izetbegovic pointed out that the power of the West does not lie in the might of its armies or its economies, but in the West's experimental methods of thinking and, therefore, the Islamic countries must adopt the method of the West, not the one they currently follow. Islamic scholar Dr. Yusuf al-Qaradawi noted that Muslims today need a "modern and easy-to-understand jurisprudence." He adds: "We must address the people in this 15th Hegira century in the language of the century" He states: "This means that we must avoid using difficult terms and getting into the intricate details pursued by jurisprudents." He concludes by urging the ulema not to be rigid in copying their predecessors, since inflexibility in doing so would lead to rigidity in religion itself.

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 24 Jan

NC0102134295

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 24 January edition of the Arabic-language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Released Journalist Vows To Continue Jihad
2. Writer Urges National Front To Confront Israeli Threat
3. Mufti Urges Preparations for 'Jihad' Against Israel
4. University Professors Urge National Front Against 'Zionist' Hegemony
5. Haykal on Violence Cycle, Need for Change
6. Campaign Against Muslim Brotherhood, Reactions Reported

RELEASED JOURNALIST VOWS TO CONTINUE JIHAD

In the first article after his release from prison on 18 January, Labor Party Secretary General 'Adil Husayn writes about his ordeal and vows to continue "to heed the words of God and continue jihad to give prominence to Allah's word and reform this nation." Husayn states, in his 2,000-word article on pages 1 and 6: "The rulers belittled me and took this nation lightly," adding that they aimed the sword of terrorism and emergency (laws) against them all to prevent them from action."

He states that solidarity with a "powerless prisoner" involves the risk of injustice for whoever declares solidarity and explains that whoever telephones his family "on our bugged telephone makes himself vulnerable to risks." He pays tribute to all those who phoned his family to voice sympathy and solidarity.

Husayn maintains that he was not imprisoned in connection with a specific case, since "there was no case." They jailed me then started to look for justification, he asserts. Claiming that he was interrogated repeatedly beforehand because of his "open assault on their corruption and failure against the enemies of the Arab-Muslim nation," he states that his writings gave no legal justification for his imprisonment. "All their arbitrary, lame laws will not eliminate me from the arena of political action," he says.

Referring to an issue that he calls "the silly envelope," he claims that a "child would know that it was a cheeky frame-up." He says the authorities tried to kill him but he was saved "by the will of God." He disputes a claim by the interior minister that he was treated well and explains that his treatment improved slightly "under pressure by the people and intellectuals."

He says that "no human being can withstand the conditions in Egyptian prisons" and that "any talk about democracy or fighting terrorism in this country is nonsense if the conditions of political prisoners remain unchanged."

Welcoming the government's rejection of Israeli and American "schemes and threats," he suggests that discussing foreign threats "should not be taken as an excuse to silence free voices or fight the call for an all-embracing Islamic reform." He says that facing up to what he calls the American-Zionist threats "requires serious development of the economy, spreading justice to fight poverty, and cleansing the regime of corruption and the corrupt, starting with the big first then the small." He adds that this requires "more democracy, which is confirmed by unrigged elections."

Husayn stresses the need to handle the problem of human rights and political prisoners in Egypt with a strong determination and calls for "serious meetings" to discuss the measures needed to achieve that.

Addressing citizens and all the democratic nationalist powers, he says: "We would be criminals if we allowed the conditions to continue."

WRITER URGES NATIONAL FRONT TO CONFRONT ISRAELI THREAT

Chief Editor Majdi Ahmad Husayn, in his 3,000-word article on page 2, claims he is puzzled by "the rulers who attack Israel with statements and use power exclusively with the people." He asks when the rulers will "wake up" instead of "dismembering the homeland and opening fronts with the public while outside risks, directly on the border, threaten the country."

He maintains that the Interior Ministry wanted to spoil public delight at 'Adil Husayn's release with "a new Tartarian campaign against the Muslim Brotherhood leaders."

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Husayn enumerates the "lessons" learned from "the battle to liberate 'Adil Husayn." Of these he mentions the "national coalition that went as far as to reach a consensus rejecting the violation of the right to enjoy freedom of expression and thought" and the honorable position assumed by the democratic, pan-Arab, and leftist powers outside the Islamic current. He states: The "national front" is now needed more than ever to tackle the issues of democracy and the "national stance on the Israeli threats."

Noting that this is the year of public elections, Husayn stresses the need to be prepared for the event, which he considers "a legal and constitutional opportunity to eliminate that corrupt regime." He says he believes it is the duty of all nationalist powers to "join forces in the face of the Israeli threats in an exhaustive program that returns the Arab-Zionist conflict to its rightful place in the nation's life after long, wasted years of falsities and lies about peace, the Middle East market, and the humiliation of foreign aid."

Husayn asserts that the government persists in what he calls its injustice by launching a campaign against the Muslim Brothers following the interior minister's "undocumented" allegation that they finance terrorism. He maintains that this casts doubt on the government's seriousness in its "hostility against Israel." He adds that this is a "historic opportunity" for President Mubarak to bring about "the awakening" he once mentioned and rearrange the Egyptian home.

The chief editor explains: "The rearrangement of our home from the inside is designed to confront, not only a potential Israeli military threat, but also downfall on every level and in every field."

Husayn says Israel's nuclear and chemical programs pose a threat to Egypt, even if they are not used militarily. He cites Egypt's ambassador in Israel as maintaining that "Israel is actually burying nuclear and chemical waste in the Sinai desert secretly."

Stating that confronting Israel necessitates rearranging the Egyptian home, Husayn points out that this requires "reconciling with the people and stopping the Tartarian campaigns against parties and syndicates, the arrest of tens of thousands without trial, the military tribunals of civilians, and the frenzied war in Mallawi and Upper Egypt." He argues that this will end 90 percent of terrorist acts.

Discussing "the internal crisis," he maintains that the dispute is "no longer between right and left, the Islamic and non-Islamic, but between the camp of reason and that of foolishness." He calls on the government "to join the camp of reason or go away and leave the leadership to those who are more worthy of it."

MUFTI URGES PREPARATIONS FOR 'JIHAD' AGAINST ISRAEL

An unattributed 200-word report on page 1 cites the mufti of the Republic calling for preparations for jihad against the Zionist enemy and disciplining whoever wants to commit aggression against Egypt.

UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS URGE NATIONAL FRONT AGAINST 'ZIONIST' HEGEMONY

A 150-word report by 'Abd-al-Hayy Muhammad on page 6 says that "University Teaching Staff Clubs have called for setting up a domestic front, releasing all public freedoms, and inviting all nationalist and political powers to confront the Zionist entity."

The report says that a statement issued by the clubs' permanent bureau stressed that "protecting the homeland's security against Zionist hegemony is the Egyptian people's cause." It adds that the clubs voiced support for the nationalist and pan-Arab role President Mubarak is undertaking in standing up to "Zionist hegemony" and his effort to reunite the Arab ranks. They commended the Syrian stance on Israeli "aggression" and its occupation of the Golan Heights.

HAYKAL ON VIOLENCE CYCLE, NEED FOR CHANGE

Page 9 features the "last installment" of a report by Mahmud Bakri on a lecture delivered by journalist Muhammad Hasanayn Haykal at the Cairo Book Fair on 11 January. The 6,000-word report cites Haykal's analysis of the cycle of violence on the domestic front. He recalls that millions of young people were trained in the use of force during Egypt's wars with Israel. "We charged them with enormous resistance energy after 1967 under the slogan that what was taken by force can only be restored by force," Haykal remarks, maintaining that violence has an inherited culture and that the resistance that confronts outside aggression can be employed in confronting domestic aggression. He adds that terrorism is an "imperative phenomenon," emerging as a result of prevailing conditions. Admitting that some people help that terrorism with incitement and finance, he doubts that anyone could utilize the phenomenon if the circumstances were not favorable.

Haykal agrees that Islam should not be promoted by murder. But he stresses that enforcing the law does not come by daily statements on killing extremist Islamic suspects. He remarks: We are "up against a sociopolitical phenomenon that involves human and intellectual aspects requiring accurate contemplation."

Haykal states that he believes 1995 will be a "distinctive year" marking Egypt's entry into the 21st century. He explains that it is "a year of elections, a natural invitation to change." Explaining why the elections represent a "decisive point," he suggests that there is a "desire to change" that should not be ignored, there are doubts about the relative power of the various inclinations affecting society," there is "an overwhelming popular demand for free elections," there is "determination by all political parties—the legitimate and the outlawed—to enter the electoral battle at any price," and there is

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"global interest in the principle of free elections" that might monitor the electoral process. He then asks whether the country can withstand elections under such circumstances, explaining that refusal to accept this means one of three things: "If the elections are run freely, the regime might lose an effective part of its majority; if the regime interferes forcefully in the elections it will certainly lose a large part of its legitimacy; and if the regime is faced with uncalculated developments, it must choose between accepting the erosion of its majority and leaving or rejecting this and taking action. In both cases, it will be a leap into the unknown."

Haykal tries to find a way out of the "crisis of choice" that he says is dictated by circumstances. But first, he says, he must state two important facts: The nationalist bloc in Egypt should not let its schism become a wide crack and "the existing regime in Egypt has no acceptable alternative." Hence, he says, helping the regime by all means possible is an indispensable safety measure. He concludes here that "the challenge facing us in 1995 lies in our ability to find a well-planned and organized solution to the crisis instead of letting the crisis resolve itself without planning or organization."

Haykal outlines his own vision in several points. He starts by stating that the nine months that separate Egypt from the elections are sufficient to try to find a solution for the crisis, that there is no need for desperation, and that this is the responsibility of President Mubarak, who, he says he believes, "is capable of shouldering it." But he adds that this calls for the president to "reorganize the state, particularly the presidency of the Republic, so that his office and selected aides can perform their vital tasks in the coming stage." Noting that the president has "one or two advisers only," Haykal asserts that this number is not sufficient and that the president "needs a highly qualified and alert group capable of following up and responding rapidly and able to pick ideas, take initiatives, conceive policies and alternatives, and submit them to the president constantly." He believes that it is advisable to "curb formalities, open channels of communication and interaction between the presidency and influential powers in the country in the political, economic, cultural, and artistic fields."

Haykal says he believes there is "a pressing need for a new social contract" before the elections, one that includes a clear-cut provision on human rights according to the exhaustive UN definition. He also sees "a pressing need for political and constitutional reform to organize that contract and arrange its priorities." He states that he believes these reforms should involve "something about the vice president's position." He thinks it is better to have more than one vice president organized in a "presidential council" to widen the scope of choice before the people when it is time to choose.

Haykal calls for an "exceptional program directly sponsored by the president" to make the best use of the country's energies and increase production.

He maintains that any attempt to race with time must begin with "broad change in the leadership of the executive authority," because, according to him, "the existing Cabinet structure is worn out and might be in need of rebuilding rather than overhauling."

He asserts the need for "an instant halt to the bloodshed" and for providing a favorable atmosphere for the coming elections.

CAMPAIGN AGAINST MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD, REACTIONS REPORTED

A 2,500-word report by 'Abd-al-Hayy Muhammad and Khalid Yunus on pages 1 and 6 gives an account of a campaign against leading Muslim Brotherhood figures and reactions to it.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat on Cairo Summit, Next Meetings With Israelis

JN0402073695 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 4 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat has accused Israel of delaying the implementation of the agreements signed with it, especially those on elections, redeployment of the Israeli Army in the occupied West Bank, and transfer of powers to the National Authority. President 'Arafat said talks during the next meetings will focus on the issues of settlement activity, elections, and withdrawal and redeployment of the Israeli Army, in addition to the issues of prisoners and refugees.

Asked about the peace process since the signing of the Oslo agreement in September 1993, President 'Arafat said: The process is proceeding at a slow pace. Asked if he is optimistic about the outcome of the peace process, he said: We have to wait and see what Israel wants. He said the Palestinian side is attaching great importance to the meetings that will be held over the next few days. He stressed that the Palestinian side is committed to the Oslo agreement and said the other concerned parties should respect this agreement. He indicated that a Palestinian tribunal will look into the cases filed against persons who try to harm the peace process.

President Yasir 'Arafat said the issue of settlement activity is discussed in all meetings with the Israelis and that this issue is of maximum importance to the Palestinian policy. He described the Cairo summit the day before yesterday as an important event.

In an interview with the British Broadcasting Corporation, aired last night, President 'Arafat said the coming days will witness important high-level meetings with the Israelis. He said a Palestinian-Israeli meeting will be held on Monday and another with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin on Thursday, during which talks will focus on the issue of elections. He added that another meeting will be held with U.S. Secretary of State Warren

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Christopher on 12 February. Delegations from Egypt, Jordan, and Israel, in addition to Palestine, will attend this meeting.

'Arafat Briefs Authority Council on Cairo Summit

JN0402155695 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1400 GMT 4 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In its weekly meeting today, the council of ministers of the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] heard a detailed briefing from President Yasir 'Arafat on the Cairo summit within an evaluation of the peace march and the obstacles that hamper it as a result of Israeli policy.

The council held the view that the Israeli stand hampers the implementation of the interim agreement, disregards Israel's commitment to the Declaration of Principles, and places the peace process in an extremely serious situation.

In a statement after the meeting, the council said the Israeli side refused to discuss the issue of the settlements, the election, redeployment, the isolation of the city of Jerusalem, the release of detainees, and other issues which the Palestinian side insisted on discussing.

The statement added that while understanding Israel's security needs and voicing its concern about this security within the concept of mutual security and in accordance with the provisions of the signed agreements, the PNA is of the opinion that this does not mean stopping or hampering the Palestinian-Israeli agreement and undermining the entire peace process.

While voicing appreciation for sisterly Egypt's role in and concern for the success of the political process and its stand on continuing the negotiations to implement the transitional phase agreement, halting settlement activity, redeployment, and elections; as well as appreciation for the role of fraternal Jordan, the PNA council of ministers considers that the results of the upcoming Palestinian-Israeli meeting between President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Rabin and the other joint meetings to tackle the outstanding problems concerning redeployment, settlement activity, elections, detainees, and the isolation of Jerusalem will determine the feasibility and usefulness of these meetings and the extent to which they will promote the entire peace process in the region.

'Arafat Aide Views Cairo Summit, Negotiations

JN0302191595 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A gradual removal of the closure of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip has been confirmed to our radio by Marwan Kanafani, adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat. Kanafani was among the Palestinian delegation at yesterday's Cairo summit. At the beginning, we asked Marwan Kanafani about the results of this summit from a Palestinian perspective. He said:

[Begin recording] [Kanafani] First, the summit in itself is an important event. This four-way summit is an expression of the growing concern over the current situation of the peace process. As you know, the peace process is almost experiencing a standoff because of the recent Israeli measures, especially with regard to the increased settlement activity and the virtual suspension of all negotiations on the expansion of the jurisdiction of Palestinian National Authority and the transfer of powers. Besides, closure is imposed on Jerusalem, and Gaza is subject to mass reprisals and closure. Therefore, the convocation of this summit in itself is an expression of the importance and seriousness of this issue, the centrality of the Palestine question and the Palestinian leadership, and the regional dimension of the problems facing the peace process. I am not excluding any other issue that obstructs the peace process. There is a growing conviction of the regional dimension of this problem. Hence the importance of the recent Cairo summit.

[Unidentified correspondent] Marwan Kanafani, has the Palestinian side managed to wrench specific, tangible concessions from the Israeli leadership, especially with regard to lifting the closure of the Palestinian territory?

[Kanafani] The summit was a collective meeting. The joint statement dealt with collective issues and referred to the need to resume negotiations. I believe we will see a reduction in the measures adopted against Gaza, specifically regarding the issue of the inhabitants' travel. Of course, many issues were discussed. President Yasir 'Arafat took advantage of the presence of the heads of state in this meeting to explain to them the situation of the peace process and the problems facing all of us. He also explained the potential dangers of this situation, which will not simply slow the peace process, but may have much worse results. Therefore, I can say that, yes, there has been some progress on the Palestinian- Israeli track.

[Correspondent] Was there an agreement to resume the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations in Cairo?

[Kanafani] Yes.

[Correspondent] When?

[Kanafani] Soon, maybe Monday [6 February].

[Correspondent] Yitzhaq Rabin believes this summit has achieved great results in Israel's interest, especially with regard to the three Arab leaders' approval of his proposals for solidarity to combat terrorism?

[Kanafani] This is not an issue of proposals by Rabin for solidarity to combat terrorism. Rather, it is an issue of violence and the reasons leading to violence. Here, we must recall that violence is something to which an end must be put. The reasons leading to violence are also among the basic matters to which an end must be put.

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Therefore, I wish Rabin had said that he managed to achieve gains for peace, which is the basic issue. The existing problems between us and Israel regarding violence are not there because there is a National Authority in Gaza that allows, turns a blind eye to, or is unable to face the issue of violence under the current circumstances, but because there is occupation. This is the real reason. There are also the problems of crossings, the bad economic situation, settlements in Gaza, and Israel's defiance of the masses' sentiments. The National Authority has not been allowed to spread its jurisdiction to the rest of the occupied territories. All these are reasons for the escalation of violence. These problems have not been caused by the existence of a national Palestinian authority in Gaza. [end recording]

Denies Israeli Press Reports on Summit

JN0502193095 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1830 GMT 5 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Marwan Kanafani, adviser to President Yasir 'Arafat, has reacted to Israeli press reports on discussions between Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin at the four-way Cairo summit. Kanafani said that the press reports on discussions between Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Rabin are pure lies, distortions of fact, and a figment of an editor's imagination. Kanafani said: It is unreasonable for Rabin to say such things because he knows that 'Arafat's participation was a responsible act to save the peace process and find a solution for the obstacles in the way of peace in the Middle East region.

Kanafani added: The publication of such lies and insinuations against a primary partner in the peace process is incomprehensible because this does not harm President 'Arafat's credibility with his people but is intended to hamper and stop the peace process. We hope that the Israeli press and those who inspire it will act on a level of responsibility commensurate with the noble task of realizing peace.

'Urayqat on Cairo Summit, Negotiations

NC0402084595 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 4 Feb 95

[Telephone interview with Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, minister of local government in the Palestinian Authority, in Jerusalem, by Ramadan Husayn, in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Husayn] Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, good morning and welcome to the Voice of the Arabs.

['Urayqat] Good morning.

[Husayn] How do you view the results of the four-way summit in Cairo?

['Urayqat] When the peace process reached a point where negotiations were broken off and the implementation of the agreements was suspended, Egyptian diplomacy, rather than the two sponsors, tried to give it a new momentum. This resulted in the four-way summit in Cairo. The summit once again shows the major role played by Egypt in the peace process. I believe the reasons that led to the convening of the summit still exist. Rabin and his government continue the settlement policy and to confiscate land, keep prisoners, and delay the implementation of the Declaration of Principles as concerns the redeployment of Israeli forces and the holding of elections. The Israeli Government is also pursuing a policy of closure and economic suffocation against the Palestinian people. All these are Israeli Government practices. Judging the four-way summit insofar as Rabin's practices are concerned will therefore depend on Rabin's conduct. We hope to see immediate changes to give the peace process a chance.

[Husayn] Dr. Sa'ib, it was agreed during the summit to hold a meeting between President 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin next week to discuss the resumption of talks on the second stage of the self rule. What are the main topics that can be discussed to resume the negotiations?

['Urayqat] Two weeks ago, there was a meeting between His Excellency President 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. They agreed to resume the negotiations on the redeployment of Israeli forces. That is, a preparatory meeting would be held during which the two sides would exchange maps, ideas, and general principles. The meeting was supposed to be held two weeks ago, but events postponed it. Now we hope that during the 'Arafat-Rabin meeting, the first thing will be an agreement to start immediately with a new mechanism for a speedy redeployment, especially that our delegation to the talks on elections will meet the Israeli delegation in Cairo on Tuesday and Wednesday. The other point on the table of the talks between 'Arafat and Rabin is the release of prisoners, who were supposed to be released two weeks ago. There are also the subjects of safe corridors and the settlement policy and its threat to the peace process, especially the building of settlements around Jerusalem. All these issues were on the agenda of the previous meeting between 'Arafat and Rabin, and I believe the discussions will continue from where they left off.

[Husayn] Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, during the summit it was also decided to hold a meeting of the foreign ministers of the four countries in Washington under American patronage to discuss the peace process in the region. How do you view the meeting?

['Urayqat] Let us say that the summit in Cairo was at Egypt's initiative to salvage the peace process, especially that the American sponsor stood like a spectator and the Russian sponsor had its own problems. Now that the negotiations and the peace process will be resumed, we do not want to focus on forms and mechanism; we want

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to talk about objectives. Negotiations and meetings are not objectives in themselves. What matters now is that the Israeli Government realize that it cannot make peace if it continues its policy of occupation, settlement, and control of Arab territory. Israel should know full well that there is no equation for peace other than the return of the Arab territory occupied in 1967, including Jerusalem and the Lebanese and Syrian territory, in return for peace. Is the Washington meeting aimed at including the United States in the peace process? These are secondary issues. The importance of meetings depends on their contents, not on the place. But the main thing is the unprecedented summit of the four leaders in Cairo and the momentum it gave to the peace process, which we hope will be reflected on the ground because what matters is Israel's commitment to the principle of land for peace and the removal of the Israeli occupation of the lands occupied in 1967.

[Husayn] Dr. 'Urayqat, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin recently formed a team to study the idea of separating or creating a barrier between the Palestinians and the Israelis. How do you view Israel's purpose and the possibility of putting the idea into practice?

['Urayqat] Let us not forget that the basic objective of the peace process is to separate the Palestinian and the Israeli peoples. But separation has its requirements. It means removing the occupation, dismantling settlements, and opening the Palestinian state to the Arab world—toward Egypt, Jordan, and the Arab markets. What Rabin is now doing, however, is not separation but political suffocation. Israeli goods are invading our markets, settlers are continuing the confiscation of land and the building of settlements, and the Israeli Army is engaged in the occupation of the West Bank with the total mentality of an occupier. On the other hand, Palestinian workers are banned from working in Israel, Palestinian commodities and vegetables are not allowed into Israel, and Palestinians are not allowed to move freely. All these things tell us that what Rabin is doing now is a policy of collective punishment, political and economic suffocation, and not the political and economic separation needed to render the peace process a success. We ultimately want the separation that is based on the principle of land for peace, Israeli withdrawal, removal of the settlements, and then two states for two peoples as stipulated by the Palestine National Council resolution in 1988. This is the peace we are looking for, and the separation we are looking for. What Rabin is practicing today is really economic repression, and I fear that the recommendations of the committees he is forming are inclined toward suffocation and collective punishment, not toward the required political separation.

[Husayn] Dr. 'Urayqat, finally, what are the most important topics you will discuss when the negotiations resume in Cairo Tuesday and Wednesday?

['Urayqat] In the previous round in Cairo early last month, we agreed to return to Cairo and to start drafting the agreed upon items to incorporate them in the phased agreement. I hope that we will return to this point and start the joint drafting because I believe that in eight rounds of talks, six of them in Cairo, all issues were covered, including the concept, nature, composition, and powers of the self-rule council and its relations with the Israeli authority. It is now time we decided on a joint drafting of the items that need to be mentioned in the phased agreement that will cover the issues of redeployment, revision of laws, transfer of powers, and elections. We hope to begin where we left off in the previous round, and we hope we will start the drafting.

[Husayn] Thank you.

['Urayqat] You are welcome.

'Abd-Rabbuh: Summit Achieved 'Nothing Whatsoever'

TA0502084595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 5 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The man in charge of the information portfolio in the Palestinian Authority [PA], Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, says nothing whatsoever was achieved in last Thursday's summit. He called it a media event. He was speaking to reporters at the conclusion of yesterday's weekly meeting of the PA in Gaza city.

[Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 5 February, in a page-5 report by Eli Bohadana and Shefi Gabay, adds: "Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh said that if the upcoming 'Arafat-Rabin meeting does not resolve the outstanding problems, the PLO will convene all the Palestinian figures who support the peace process in a bid to determine whether that process is still viable."]

Jibril on 'Desperate Attempt' To Save Agreements

JN0402092695 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 3 Feb 95

["Text" of press statement issued by PFLP-GC Secretary General Ahmad Jibril on the meeting between Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, Jordanian King Husayn, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak held in Cairo on 2 February; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The meeting being held now in Cairo has come about at the pressing request and encouragement of the U.S. Administration in a bid to save the agreements concluded by the Zionist entity with some Arab regimes and with Yasir 'Arafat. These agreements are threatened with collapse because our people and nation reject them. This has been manifested in our nation's steadfastness and resistance against the U.S.-Zionist conditions, as well as in the escalation of the jihad action in the Palestinian territories and southern Lebanon. Based on this, the Cairo meeting is a desperate attempt by these parties, which betrayed their peoples—with the encouragement and support of the United

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States—to salvage the humiliating agreements they have signed. They are now meeting in Cairo while each one of them is living his own crisis and predicament. Their main goal behind this desperate attempt is to end their predicament.

'Arafat and his agreement, which he signed in Oslo, are threatened with collapse. Rabin and Peres are also experiencing bad domestic conditions. Jordan began to feel that if the Oslo agreement collapses and the settlement tracks stop, then the agreement signed by Husayn with Rabin in Wadi al-'Arabah is also likely to collapse. Egypt's Mubarak feels that through this meeting, Egypt may restore its status—which has dwindled—in the Middle East. Mubarak wants to tell America that the role of Egypt is significant for the continued success of the settlement process and to save the agreements signed thus far.

For our part, we say that no matter how hard they try in their meetings to come up with ways to protect the settlement agreements signed in the past and that no matter what they do to prevent the collapse of these agreements and treaties, we are certain that the masses of our nation and people can thwart these humiliating agreements in the forthcoming period, God willing.

[Signed] Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the PFLP-GC [Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command]

Hamas: Cairo Summit 'Volunteered Support' for Rabin

JN0402190795 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1755 GMT 4 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, today issued a statement on the four-way summit held in Cairo. The statement said terrorist Rabin has tried to make of this meeting a way out of the political and military impasse that is the result of our people's brave resistance and mujahidin operations.

In its statement, the Hamas movement emphasized that the Arab sides that participated in the meeting volunteered support for terrorist Rabin in his oppressive war against our brave people's mujahidin. The meeting ignored all the fateful issues from which our people are suffering under the escalating Zionist onslaught. The meeting did not allude to the Zionist settlement onslaught and did not discuss the continuation of the closures and the starvation of our people.

The Hamas Movement said the meeting was a bonus of peace for the Zionist entity and a promotion of its plan for penetrating the collapsing Arab front. It was support for terrorist Rabin in his war against our people's mujahidin. This was proven by the fact that the Arab sides participating in the meeting described the mujahidin operation as terrorist operations.

Concluding its statement, Hamas said: We and our Palestinian people, while rejecting the Cairo meeting decisions, affirm our determination to continue our adherence to the path of jihad and martyrdom. Such meetings and decisions will not succeed in diverting our people from the path of legitimate resistance against the loathsome occupation.

Commentary Hopes Israel Will Not Misinterpret Summit

JN0402110595 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0620 GMT 4 Feb 95

["Political commentary" by Yusuf al-Qazzaz]

[FBIS Translated Text] Good morning. A one-day panoramic view of the Israeli occupation of our country, Palestine, shows the following: Erection of occupation roadblocks impeding the movement of Palestinian citizens and preventing them from leaving for their places of work or fulfilling their needs. Jerusalem is turned into a military barracks to prevent the arrival of worshipers from the West Bank and Gaza Strip. A Palestinian prisoner called Nazim Mahmud 'Imran is martyred. Settlement activity is filling the place and time and is aimed this time against the lands of the village of Turmus 'Ayya. The settlers demonstrate their strength by uprooting 400 olive trees in one go in the village of Dayr (Istya). The picture of a Palestinian youth kneeling before two armed Israeli soldiers miserably flexing their muscles against him—a show of power similar to that of soldiers searching a bus carrying female worshipers on their way to the house of God in Jerusalem.

These are a few examples of the many images of the Israeli occupation of our Palestinian territory. We are not surprised by what is being done by the occupation authority because it is an occupation which has consecrated and entrenched its image even in the minds of large sectors of the world public. We the Palestinians do not expect occupation to be other than occupation, for these are its laws and nature. It has become clear that Israel always wishes to maintain an enemy. However, if such an enemy does not exist, it would certainly create one under any pretext, the least of which is the security pretext, as if the entire world should be mobilized to maintain Israel's security at a time when Israel itself is not concerned about the security of anyone even if it were the security of its partners in the peace process.

We and Israel are still amid the climate of the recent four-way summit in Cairo. The summit issued a final statement as is known. The question now is: Will Israel interpret its attendance of this summit as a green light to encroach on Palestinian and Arab taboos and continue its savage policy toward the Palestinian people and the Palestinian territory—a policy represented in building settlements, killing people, and demolishing houses built with the sweat of the Palestinian people, the most ancient people in this region whose faith and blood mixed with this earth and its holy places? Most probably,

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Israel, due to the nature of its expansionist settlement concept, will misinterpret the meaning of its participation in the summit. This conclusion is based on our experience and knowledge of this Israeli mentality, which sees nothing in the Middle East and world horizons except security and life for Israel alone.

Regardless of the prevailing political atmosphere in the Middle East and in our Palestinian territory, Israel has one equation to observe so that it will continue to be accepted by the Arabs in this part of the world. The equation is commitment to the life of others, foremost of whom are the people of Palestine, and to stopping all Israeli practices against the Palestinian land and man, as well as the Israeli leaders' strong faith in the Palestinian people's sacred right to establish their Palestinian state whose capital is Arab Jerusalem. Will Israel remain Israel of the settlement activity, killings, and cancellation of the rights of others; namely, Palestinians and Arabs? We hope that Israel will change because the others—Palestinians and Arabs—have changed. Patience will always have its limits.

Sha'th Cited on Possible Return of Intifadah

LD0602103395 London THE INDEPENDENT in English 6 Feb 95 p 11

[Report by Robert Fisk, incorporating comments by Nabil Sha'th, adviser to Yasir 'Arafat: "Palestinians Fear Bloody Nightmare"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo—When Nabil Sha'th starts talking about the "third option"—the "nightmare option" as he calls it—you realise how close the Arab-Israeli "peace" has come to collapse. The third option is what he calls "total conflict", the collapse of the Palestinian Authority in Gaza and Jericho, a return to the intifada, all-out war between Arab and Jew. "In the event of the third option," he says, "the odds are on a very bloody conflict that would not be like it was before—both parties would resort to brutalities... militant Islamists will have grounds for recruiting even more suicide bombers."

The PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat's closest adviser speaks eloquently, fearfully, of this option. His remaining optimism is almost as brave as his ability to fear the worst.

Management consultant, publisher, philatelist, Mr Sha'th is having to contemplate failure ever more frequently. "The peace process is in deep trouble," he says. "And if it collapses what will happen?" You realise then that the PLO has been talking about just such a possibility, that they have been staring into the darkness for the first time.

Last week's Arab-Israeli "summit of hope" in Cairo has not fooled the Palestinians. No date was set for long-postponed Palestinian elections on the West Bank, no date agreed tor further Israeli "redeployment", no promises made of an end to Jewish settlement on Arab land. Mr Sha'th's nimble mind has therefore been moving between the best and worst of all possible worlds, acknowledging failure and contemplating hope while excoriating those Palestinians who choose to oppose him.

"There are now three possible outcomes. The first is an alternative peace process in which we would go straight to the final settlement (talks on Jerusalem and Jewish settlements, the return of 1948 and 1967 Palestinian refugees), abandoning the interim settlement (elections and military withdrawals).

"So far, the interim process has failed," he says. "This interim stage was intended to improve the climate and build confidence between Palestinians and Israelis. But it is deepening the lack of confidence in the agreement... The Israelis have been unable to abandon their colonial attitude."

Sitting in his Cairo office Mr Sha'th has rarely been so forthright. "The interim stage has not changed the image of Palestinians in Israeli eyes nor vice-versa. We were not able to give them more security. From their point of view, another Beit Lid (suicide bombing) will be the end of the road. From our point of view, more settlements are the end of the road. The idea of moving straight to permanent status discussions is gaining ground even in Israel."

The second option, Mr Sha'th says, is "to live with closure, this wall of separation, for a while until something changes the balance of power, which means the Israelis will clamp down a new closure (on the West Bank and Gaza) until a new process has been found. We would have to build our relationships to Egypt and Jordan and build an economy that is self-sufficient for a while. We are working on this very fact."

And then he comes back to option three. "If number three ever takes place, it would eventually lead to a redefinition of the peace process. But it would meanwhile produce nothing for us and nothing for the Israelis. It would destroy both our goals of peace until it was replaced by something better. It would mean the collapse of the Palestinian authorities and resort to resistance again."

When asked how seriously he has contemplated this nightmare, he admits that he—though not Mr 'Arafat's "cabinet"—has contemplated a mass resignation of the Palestinian Authority, which would remain in Gaza but perhaps go underground. And he launches into a bitter attack on those Palestinians who, he believes, wish the peace process to fail.

"The intellectual opposition wants to make us look... incapable of meeting the Israelis at their own level of sophistication and connivance. Would they rather see a Bosnia or a Chechnya in Palestine? In the post-Soviet era, UN intervention has just stabilised the status quo in favour of the physically stronger part.

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"Most of (the Islamic militants) Hamas's actions directed against the Israelis are in fact directed against us, to make us hit at them to foment civil war or to make us look impotent to the Israelis."

Mr Sha'th is now demanding the "Egyptian model" for peace. "Egypt took every Jewish settler and every settlement out and this produced a real peace. And in the West Bank, every settler and every settlement has got to go."

Jerusalem can be a capital for two nations, he says. "If the United States recognises all Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, that will end the peace process." He even talks about returning 1948 refugees to Galilee, inside Israel itself. "If you return 100,000 Palestinians to Galilee, that's only 10 per cent of the Palestinians in Israel already. Will the Israelis go along with that? I think they'll have to."

And then you realise that Mr Sha'th wants what the Israelis thought they no longer had to contemplate: implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 242. Even if the nightmare third option was fulfilled it would lead, after much blood, to another peace process because there is no going back.

Sha'th on Cairo Meeting on Displaced, Refugees

JN0502100295 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0800 GMT 5 Feb 95

[Telephone interview with Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation in the Palestinian Authority, by Fathi al-Barqawi on 5 February—recorded]

[Translated FBIS Text] [al-Barqawi] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation, welcome.

[Sha'th] Welcome to you, too.

[Al-Barqawi] A tripartite Palestinian, Egyptian, Jordanian meeting was held yesterday on the issue of the displaced. In the joint statement, it was mentioned that there is an intention to adopt a common view on the steps needed to facilitate the repatriation of the displaced. Can you tell us about this common view?

[Sha'th] Yesterday's meeting was the first meeting on a major and basic issue within the peace process: the repatriation of the Palestinian refugees. Of course, in the Oslo agreement we divided the refugees into two groups. One group, according to international definitions, comprises the displaced. They are those who were forced to leave Palestine, or were prevented from returning to it as a result of the 1967 war. The mechanism here is to classify the various groups of refugees. That's why we will concentrate on four groups. Those who were outside Palestine when the 1967 war took place for reasons having to do with studies, medical treatment, tourism, or other reasons and who were unable to return as a result of the war. Those who were forced to leave Palestine as a result of the war. Those who were deported from Palestine after the war, and those who left Palestine after the war but were unable to return because Israel did not renew their permits. Therefore, each of these groups has its own mechanism so that we can work to repatriate this group. There are those who left after the war and were registered by the Red Cross. Those who left later and had Israeli identity cards and permits but which no longer were valid because they expired after Israel refused to renew them. Those who are abroad have to prove they were registered in the West Bank, with Jordan, or in the Gaza Strip so that we can send them back with their families. We will do our best to return all those who left with their families, and their number is around 1 million.

[Al-Barqawi] Let me convey to you the worries of the Palestinian displaced. When will the first group return to the homeland?

[Sha'th] Under the Oslo agreement, all these should return in the transition period, during the five years stipulated in the agreement. But, of course this needs to be negotiated with the Israeli side. The negotiations will begin in Amman in the last week of this month, God willing. What will Israel do to procrastinate on this issue? It has actually procrastinated on all the topics on which we negotiated.

[Al-Barqawi] Dr Sha'th, would you say Israel is an expert in procrastination?

[Sha'th] The question of procrastination, delaying, and placing obstacles has become a trait of the Israeli negotiator. But, in spite of this, we say that this issue will be given the attention it deserves, along with halting settlements, releasing prisoners, and having Israeli withdraw from the West Bank villages and cities.

[Al-Barqawi] Dr. Sha'th, thank you for these clarifications.

PA Plan on Hamas Seeks Containment Without 'Confrontation'

MM0302142995 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 2 Feb 95 pp1, 4

[Report by Jamal Khashuqji: "Palestinian Authority's Plan Against Hamas in Autonomy Region"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London—The Palestinian National Authority [PNA; Palestinian Authority, PA] will tackle the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas by getting it involved in political activity and highlighting that activity, while at the same time minimizing its military activity and containing its economic resources, especially the alms committees, and disrupting its "strong" links with traders. All that while keeping "security confrontation to a minimum."

That is the gist of "the plan for confrontation with Hamas" approved by the PNA leadership in Gaza, as

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confirmed by informed Palestinian sources who disclosed details of the plan to AL-HAYAH. These sources say that the plan is completely Palestinian and has not been influenced by proposals which were actually made by some Arab organs to the Palestinian leadership in the narrowest contexts. The source [as published], who wished to remain anonymous, said the plan does not concentrate on a decisive security solution "that would probably lead to an uncontrollable explosive situation in Gaza, as suggested by some Arab security organs."

The plan begins with a quick review of the roots of the "religious orthodox fundamentalist phenomenon." [passage omitted]

The plan defines its general objective as follows: "Hamas is an existing political force...which should be dealt with in a way that would allow it to join the political process, highlight its political activity, and reduce and minimize its resistance and military action against Israel, according to our game rules to make sure of "disrupting and cutting off" Hamas' foreign links and exposing its internal split and dual political and informational line." [passage omitted]

On the role of religion, the plan urges "affirmation of the existence of numerous Islamic movements and trends" and a distinction between Islam as a slogan and Hamas as a political movement which must have a program, and, therefore, affirmation that raising Islam as a slogan is not eough and that Hamas has no program. That seems to have been copied from the Egyptian style against the Muslim Brotherhood, which says that "Islam is the solution." The plan favors the adoption of Islamic ideas which favor [the expression of various] "intepretations" and "the use of this pluralism (the existence of numerous Islamic ideas and forces) to project the premise that there is more than just one interpretation of religion."

Contrary to what some Arab regimes have done, the plan advises against "getting into a race with these forces in embracing Islam, especially the usual methods used by the Arab regimes, such as relaying Friday prayers, because such methods strengthen the religious forces ideologically and would not benefit the Authority politically."

On the role of the mosque, the plan admits that it is difficult to neutralize it or get Hamas out of it "because of the religious nature of the matter." It adds that the solution is "to enter the mosque with Hamas and even before it." [passage omitted]

The plan clearly focuses on the economic aspect. It maintains that the essence of the work of the Muslim Brotherhood—it should be noted here that the plan deliberately mixes Hamas and the Muslim Brotherhood on the basis of its understanding of the existing realities in Gaza—is based on a structure of three dimensions which are: "First, the alms committees, which are a basic source of aid and finance. Second, the economic establishments they [the Muslim Brotherhood] own and in which they employ a large number of their supporters, and, third, the undeclared alliance between them and an important sector of the capitialist class, especially merchants.... Therefore, any confrontation plan must seek to break the chain holding the various links." [passage omitted]

The final part of the plan deals with the "security aspect." Here it differs from other such plans in most Arab states in that it favors "keeping the security confrontation [mu'alajah] down to a minimum in order to weaken the image Hamas is trying to promote, namely that it is the main opposition force and the ready alternative," but it must first sort Hamas out internally "by blocking the individuals and leaderships hostile to the PNA and supporting the position of the leaderships adopting a moderate stand toward it and willing to participate in the political game." It adds that the security pressure should be on the "main body" of Hamas not on its sympathizers and supporters. That way, the plan hopes, Hamas can be separated from its sympathizers.

Hamas Warned Not To Plan Attacks on Israelis

TA0402130195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 4 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Palestinian security services in the Gaza Strip have investigated scores of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists in the past few days and warned them not to plan attacks against Israelis

Islamic Jihad sources told Israel Radio their leader, Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Shami, had been arrested and was being held under rough conditions in Gaza's central jail.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1200 GMT on 4 February carries a related report which adds: "The Palestinian police today released from prison Shaykh 'Abdallah Zaq and Shaykh 'Umar Furayh, two Islamic Jihad political leaders in the Gaza Strip who were arrested following the Bet Lid bombing. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that two other Islamic Jihad leaders, including Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Shami, remain in prison."

[The report goes on to say that "Jibril al-Rujub, head of the Palestinian security service in the West Bank, claimed today that the Israeli Army had imposed a practical closure on Jericho, preventing the entry and exit of Palestinians. Military sources told our correspondent that a sector of Highway No. 90 crossing Jericho had been closed this morning until further notice for security reasons."]

'Arafat Said To Appeal to Brotherhood To Curb Hamas

TA0502091895 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 5 Feb 95 p 5

[Report by Arab affairs correspondent Smadar Peri]

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[FBIS Translated Text] The heads of the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt have rejected two appeals from PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat for them to persuade Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad in the Gaza Strip to stop their attacks on Israel.

In two secret meetings 'Arafat held with five Muslim Brotherhood leaders, the latter informed him they are not interested in doing his work for him.

'Arafat knows with these leaders from his days as a student at Cairo University. The first meeting, held 10 days ago, ended with a negative answer. The second meeting was held last Thursday, several hours before the quadripartite Cairo summit.

In his meetings with the five senior leaders, 'Arafat implied that Muslim Brotherhood activists are smuggling weapons and equipment to Hamas and Islamic Jihad terrorists in Gaza. "I must come to the Cairo summit with a guarantee to put an end to terrorism in Gaza," 'Arafat said. Nonetheless, the meeting with the Muslim Brotherhood leaders apparently ended without any results.

PA Security Forestalls Suicide Operation in Gaza

NC0402173695 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1640 GMT 4 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Gaza, 4 Feb (MENA)—Officials of the Palestinian security apparatus revealed in remarks today that the Palestinian Authority [PA] succeeded last week in preventing a suicide operation that was due to be carried out near the Israeli settlement of Morag, which is close to the city of Khan Yunus in the Gaza Strip.

The sources said that a youth of 15 was arrested. He had been planning to rig himself with explosives and carry out a suicide operation against Israeli military personnel and settlers.

Israeli Soldier Killed, 2 Wounded in Gaza

JN0602092295 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0900 GMT 6 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An Israeli soldier was killed and two others were seriously wounded today when machine gun fire was opened on an oil tanker near the Nahal 'Oz settlement at the entrance to the Gaza Strip.

The Israeli occupation forces sent large reinforcements to the scene, sealed off the area, and started combing operations.

Israel Said Banning Jericho Residents From Leaving City

JN0402085095 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0800 GMT 4 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In a new provocative development, the Israeli occupation forces today banned citizens from leaving the city of Jericho and prevented Palestinian students from going to their universities and institutes.

Brigadier General al-Hajj Isma'il Jabr, commander of the security forces in the Jericho area, told our radio that the Israeli measure is both provocative and arrogant. He added that Israel is still working according to the mentality of the occupier, something which explicitly denotes Israeli intentions to obstruct the peace process. Brig. Gen. Isma'il Jabr stressed that there are no problems at all in Jericho. He said he contacted the Israeli officer in the joint liaison committee to know the reasons behind the arbitrary measure, but the officer said he had no information about the issue in question.

Jordanian Embassy Denies Minister To Visit Gaza

TA0502102495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 5 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Jordanian Embassy in Israel has no knowledge of a planned visit by the Jordan foreign minister to the Gaza Strip today. Our Arab affairs correspondent Arye Gus reports that the visit was reported by AL-NAHAR. Israeli sources told our correspondent that the Jordanians have expressed an interest in such a visit on more than one occasion. According to agreements between Israel and the Palestinians, official visits to the autonomy must be coordinated with Israel first.

Hamas Official Reportedly Meets Clinton Advisers

TA0602095795 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM TIMES in English 3 Feb 95 pp 5, 14

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Will the United States succeed in convincing the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, to join the peace train?

This is a question that needs to be answered following a secret visit paid to Washington a few days ago by Musa Abu-Marzuq, the head of the Hamas political bureau.

Despite the air of secrecy surrounding this visit, some information has been leaked. It confirms that Abu-Marzuq has met with some of US President Bill Clinton's senior advisors.

Abu-Marzuq's visit coincides with heated debates taking place within, the movement concerning the option of turning Hamas into a political party. No decision on this issue has been made yet.

In turn, Hamas has not denied or confirmed that Abu Marzuq visited Washington. Hamas spokesman in Amman Ibrahim Ghawshah confined himself to saying that Abu-Marzuq was a Palestinian leader who moves in more than one direction. He refused to name his whereabouts, but also said the movements of Abu-Marzuq should not be met with question marks or doubts.

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Although these comments hint that Abu-Marzuq was sent to Washington by Hamas, it is not clear whether the main shura (group consultation) of Hamas gave the go ahead.

It is possible that this new move by Hamas through direct channels is an attempt to cut off PNA President Yasir 'Arafat who has succeeded in winning over some of the prominent members of the movement in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. His main sympathizer in Hamas is Sa'id Bilal, who has been in contact with 'Arafat ever since Hamas turned down four seats 'Arafat offered the movement in the Palestinian National Authority through 'Abbas Zaki.

Some diplomatic observers, however, view Abu-Marzuq's move in the direction of Washington as a response to 'Arafat's encounter with the Muslim Brothers in Egypt.

According to Ghawshah, the recent 'Arafat meeting with prominent figures in the Muslim Brotherhood movement lasted two hours and no issues of substance were discussed. 'Arafat simply limited himself to assuring them of his concern over Jerusalem and over attempts by the donor countries to impede his attempt at regaining the city, he said.

Ghawshah confirmed that 'Arafat told the Muslim Brothers that he is not opposed to the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam units if their operations take place outside the borders of the self-rule areas. He also said he is opposed to Hamas activities within the confines of the self-rule areas.

Ghawshah commented that Hamas does not plan its strategy in order to bring down Yasir 'Arafat, but to bring down Rabin.

All attempts by the PNA to divide Hamas, he added, are doomed to failure. He denied rumors that 'Arafat asked the Muslim Brothers to convince Hamas to join the PNA.

Regardless of the ups and downs in the conflict between Hamas and the PNA, on the one hand, and Hamas and Israel, on the other, Abu-Marzuq's visit to Washington is a dramatic turning-point in the conflict between Hamas, Israel and Washington.

Radio Cites U.S. Secretary Remarks on West Bank Closure

JN0602094695 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 6 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Ronald Brown, U.S. secretary of commerce, criticized the closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip in Jerusalem last night. Following a meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, he told reporters that the closure decision causes problems and inevitably harms the economy of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The U.S. secretary, who is currently on a tour of the Middle East to discuss the economic aspects of the peace process, went on to say: We are aware of the motives behind this Israeli measure. We are pleased that the closure measures have been eased.

The Israeli Government had earlier decided to extend the closure until Thursday [9 February] at least and ease it for certain categories of people such as doctors and teachers, in addition to certain humanitarian cases.

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Algeria

Mitterrand Proposes European Conference on Algeria

Commentary Criticizes Initiative

LD0402011295 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 3 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Francois Mitterrand of France proposed on 3 February that a conference on Algeria be organized in Europe. According to President Mitterrand, such a conference would contribute to bringing about a dialogue between Algerians. Mitterrand proposes the holding of such a conference at the level of the European Union, over which France is currently presiding for six months. Mitterrand alleged that this initiative would be inspired by the various ideas proposed recently, notably at the Sant'Egidio meeting in Rome. President Mitterrand said that such a conference was just a hope and not a political decision, and it was being proposed because of the failure of all the attempts to resolve the Algerian tragedy.

Here is a radio comment on this subject, read by [correspondent] Mokhtar:

[Mokhtar] President Francois Mitterrand of France has proposed the holding of a European conference on Algeria under the excuse of a search for a solution to the crisis in Algeria. In his proposal, President Mitterrand calls for the proposed conference to be based on the Sant'Egidio document.

Thus, once again, Mitterrand permits himself to interfere in the affairs of an independent and sovereign state, and this position of his shows an attempt on his part to offset the successive defeats of his policy toward Algeria since his youth, during the armed liberation revolution.

According to observers, the chances of this initiative are slim, as it is unlikely that the European Union member countries will go along with him. Likewise, Algeria did not and will not call for such foreign initiatives to resolve internal problems existing between Algerians. The most significant evidence of this is the popular demonstrations and marches that have clearly and absolutely rejected the Sant'Egidio meeting.

On the other hand, President Zeroual's decision to organize presidential elections before the end of this year has come to confront all the political forces in the country with their responsibilities, as he has insistently urged them to take part in the preparations for the popular consultation. Furthermore, this decision is an instrument to lay down a domestic popular platform to look for a solution to the crisis.

This line will be the rock on which Mitterrand's attempt will be smashed, his attempt to impose a system of government under the leadership of the heirs to the Harka [name given to Algerians who fought nationalist insurgents on the side of France and after independence fled to France], whom he organized during his entire political course, from the liberation revolution up to his 14-year mandate as president.

Radio on 'Destabilization' Attempts

LD0402093895 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 0630 GMT 4 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] From this Friday [3 February], for the next six months, France is presiding over the European Union. When he received the members of the European Commission, Francois Mitterrand, who has only 100 days left as head of state, expressed his wish that a European conference on the situation in Algeria should be held. Here is a commentary from Algerian radio:

There are certainly some men who grow old ungracefully, bitter about the failures of their youth.

The generation of the sons of All Saints Day [1 November, date of the start of Algerian war of liberation] well remembers the interior minister who stated in the first days of the Algerian revolution in November 1954: Negotiation means war. France is sovereign from Calais to Tamenrasset. You guessed—it was Francois Mitterrand.

During the 14 years of his presidency of France, Mitterrand has not ceased to contribute to the destabilization of Algeria. He has just embarked on the same task as soon as he took over the presidency of Europe. He has proposed nothing less than a European conference on the situation of a sovereign state which gained its independence by fighting against him and his friends. Of course the Europeans will not follow him. This will not bother the French president, however, whose presidential term is about to end and who is no longer in touch with reality, be it French or international.

What matters for Mitterrand is to take advantage of his last few months of power to express his deep-rooted hatred for a sovereign and independent Algeria. It seems that Mitterrand will only rest on the day when his fifth column takes over the state. But alas for him and for his fifth column, there are the Algerian people to be reckoned with.

Opposition Welcomes Initiative

LD0402122095 Paris Radio France International in French 0630 GMT 4 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] The Algerian regime has not reacted yet to Francois Mitterrand's initiative, but undoubtedly it will not react favorably, as it has already denounced the Rome meeting as an intervention attempt.

On the other hand, several participants in the Rome meeting have reacted to Mitterrand's initiative. Abdelhamid Mehri, FLN [National Liberation Front] leader,

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quoted by the daily LIBERATION, thinks that if this can bring about more concrete interest from Europe to help reach a peaceful solution, then this is a good thing.

LIBERATION also quotes FFS [Socialist Forces Front] leader Hocine Ait Ahmed as describing the proposal as an important contribution to the peace efforts, which were initiated among Algerians and should remain among Algerians.

Rabah Kebir, representative of the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] abroad, stressed in the same paper that, while rejecting internationalization of the crisis, the FIS encourages any initiative that strengthens the Rome platform. He hopes that the positive statements by French politicians will lead to concrete steps.

FIS Supports Approach

JN0502181495 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1715 GMT 5 Feb 95

[Report by Qusayy Salih al-Darwish]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Algerian press has continued its violent campaign against President Francois Mitterrand and his recent initiative. Meanwhile, Shaykh Rabah Kebir welcomed the French president's remarks. In a telephone conversation with our radio, Kebir said: We are against internationalizing the Algerian crisis. This is a principled stand of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS]. However, we support any initiative to back the Rome agreement; namely, the search for a negotiated, peaceful, legitimate, and just solution. President Mitterrand's remarks come within this context.

Rabah Kebir, the president of the FIS executive body abroad, said: We support this approach, but we hope that these press statements will be transformed into a realistic political practice, because while hearing statements about supporting a negotiated solution, we find an insistence on economic support for the Algerian regime despite its rejection of this solution.

On another level, Kebir reiterated that the FIS strongly denounced and deplored the recent bomb attack in the center of the capital and that this denunciation is based on the FIS political line and is in harmony with the Rome agreement.

Kebir told our radio that Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj may have been transferred to a secret place and that contacts with them have stopped. He said that last Wednesday Belhadj contacted some leaders abroad and said that the authorities took Abassi Madani to an unknown destination under the pretext of treating him. Since then, visits to Belhadj have stopped and contacts with the two men have ended.

Envoy to Paris Recalled

LD0402130895 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 4 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] According to a statement by the Foreign Ministry, Hocine Djoudi, Algerian ambassador to Paris, has been recalled to Algiers for consultations with the government. This decision was taken following the recent statements made by French President Francois Mitterrand who proposed a European conference on Algeria.

Zeroual Meets With Recalled Envoy

LD0502201595 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 5 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Algerian President Liamine Zeroual received Hocine Djoudi, Algeria's envoy in Paris, today at the presidency. Djoudi was recalled yesterday for consultations following French President Francois Mitterrand's recent statement.

French Envoy Asked To Explain Proposal

LD0402173495 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Following the proposals for a conference by French President Francois Mitterrand, French Ambassador to Algeria Michel Leveque was today summoned to the Foreign Ministry, where he was welcomed by Abdelkader Taffar, secretary general at the ministry . During the meeting, Taffar asked the French ambassador for clarification of Francois Mitterrand's statements.

Taffar reminded the French ambassador that the Algerian Government rejects any foreign interference in Algeria's internal affairs.

Parties Denounce Proposal

LD0502223895 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 5 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Following the French proposal to organize a European meeting to discuss the Algerian question, some of the national parties continued to express their reactions.

In a joint statement, the national Boumedienist Front and the Algerian National Rally condemned Mitterrand's statements, and reminded him that his partners who planned and executed the policy of the decade of cowering and the disasters that followed it have deceived him at the beginning of the eighties, and they were today trying to deceive him once more to involve him in a direct confrontation with the Algerian people.

In the end, we wonder about the secret of the coincidence between Mitterrand's statements and the presence of a group of leaders of some parties in France who participated in the Sant 'Egidio conspiracy.

In a statement today, the Ettahadi party offered a number of observations. The reliance of Mitterrand's proposal on Sant 'Egidio annuls from the very outset any neutrality claim.

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Ettahadi added that pursuing a neutral policy between a model for progress and democracy and another for backwardness, was a service to fundamentalism.

Ettahadi pointed out that it welcomed any contribution to restore peace and security within a republican framework, but without the course of foreign intervention.

Thus, Ettahadi concluded its statement by inviting the democrats and nationalists to confront any form of deviation toward a foreign intervention, the price of which would be paid by the Algerian people.

In a statement, HAMAS [Islamic Resistance Movement] said that it received with great resentment the French proposal. It added that it admitted the need to preserve the constants, national unity, sovereignty, and rejection of internationalization of the Algerian problem, but did not allow anyone to trifle with the future of the people, or mortgage it in the lobbies of the official diplomacy, or the opposition inside or outside the country.

Envoy: Dialogue Encourages 'Terrorist Groups'

LD0402132495 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 4 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Mr. Mohamed Hannache, the Algerian ambassador to Germany, stated, following the booby-trapped car attack at Amirouche road in Algiers that killed 42 people and left more than 250 people wounded, that the circles that urged the need for giving credibility to the terrorist groups should shoulder some political responsibility for this vile attack.

In in statement to German television, Mr. Hannache reaffirmed that the Algerian Government had begun a dialogue with the opposition parties as well as with members of the dissolved party [FIS] in a bid to find a political solution. But a number of parties, Mr. Hannache added, recently urged the government to open direct negotiations with the terrorist groups. And in doing so, Mr. Hannache pointed out, the terrorists had received encouragement and understanding from these parties to continue the policy of terror, like the bloody attack at Amirouche road.

The Algerian ambassador insisted, at the end of his statement, that the political and economic reforms were making firm progress. The Algerian policy was showing more commitment on the road to a solution that would allow the Algerian people to choose its leaders, he added.

Sifi Receives Letter From France's Balladur

LD0402215695 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 4 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Mr. Hocine Djoudi, the Algerian ambassador in France, has been recalled to Algiers by the government for consultations. [passage omitted] The Algerian presidency has repeated on several occasions that the problems of Algeria will have to be solved in Algeria by Algerians.

This is also the wish of French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur. In a letter to Prime Minister Sifi, the French prime minister condemns the Avenue Amirouche bomb attack that hit defenseless civilians. He also hopes that Algeria will be able to define a political solution to its very serious crisis as scon as possible. Mr. Balladur stresses that only Algeria can find this solution with the help of the entire international community so that civilian peace can be restored, together with the conditions for the democratic participation of its people.

Perpetrator of Algiers Bombing Reportedly in U.S.

LD0402210495 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 4 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The statement by Anouar Haddam, the representative of the dissolved party in the United States, on the abominable crime committed at Martyr Amirouche street has exposed a number of facts, which Fathi S'idi considers:

Anouar Haddam said that it was only bad luck that led to the death of passers-by in Col. Amirouche Street when the booby-trapped car exploded last Monday.

An excuse that is worse than the offense. This statement by Haddam, as his name indicates [his name in Arabic means destructive or subversive] was an attempt to justify the terrorist criminal operation or to soften the wave of denunciations and strong condemnation in the homeland in particular, and abroad in general. However, it was a stupid attempt, because Haddam and the organizers and perpetrators of the operation are not ignorant of the fact that Amirouche Street is one of the most important and biggest streets in the capital Algiers. It is the site of a number of banks and large commercial stores, as well as the university restaurant, which is always crowded with students. Amirouche Street is also an unavoidable passing point to all those coming via rail from various parts of the country, and also to the students coming from Houari Boumediene University who disembark at Agha station near the street.

All those passers-by will be crossing this street on their way to the various quarters of the capital's highland. Haddam knows these facts very well and he cannot convince us otherwise, regardless of the excuses.

Haddam's insolence goes so far as to claim that it was bad luck that the crowded coach passed at the moment of the crime. However, let us assume that the coach did not pass at that moment. Amirouche Street will always be full of pedestrians. The operation deserves the strongest condemnation even if one person was affected by it because it was a cowardly and treacherous act.

Another question should be asked: What was the fault of the citizens who were either at their homes near the site of the explosion or in the banks and shops going about their normal business?

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In short, the operation had openly targeted the Algerian people because it struck indiscriminately, with utmost barbarism and in the most inhumane manner. The operation is completely identical to the Lockerbie incident, because of which Libya was subjected to sanctions. Although today it seems that Libya is blameless. The difference between the two operations stops here. [sentence as heard]

The Lockerbie operation provided Western political activities and Western media—the heroes of defending human rights—with the necessary ammunition for many years. They were not only pursuing individuals involved in terrorism but were also pursuing the states.

However, the reality today is that Anouar Haddam, who claims openly that the person responsible for the massacre of Amirouche Street is residing happily and safely in the United States of America, and is organizing and planning terrorist operations without being subject to any harassment.

What would the United States of America, whose coasts are guarded by the Statute of Liberty, say to the injured and the families of the victims? What would she say to the Algerian people? Would Haddam continue to enjoy the freedom of the United States of America and the instigation of the madmen of death and destruction? Or is it the old saying: It is forbidden for you and is allowed for us.

French Media Coverage of Car Bombing Criticized

LD0502233495 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 2200 GMT 5 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Armed Islamic Group [GIA] has claimed responsibility for the attack on the Boulevard Amirouche, which left 42 dead and 286 injured in Algiers on 30 January. The GIA communique, published by AL-HAYAT, which comes out in London, repeats its threats to carry out further terrorist operations during Ramadan. This claim of responsibility by the GIA comes after Anouar Haddam had admitted that terrorist groups were responsible for the car bomb attack. Hassan Daffeir comments:

[Daffeir] At this announcement—and all (?those with satellite dishes) [paraboles] will have noticed this—the programs of French television, as if by magic, are open to all those who went to Rome, but not once, not even out of ethical considerations, has the floor been given to other trends. So what we have been able to hear on these channels has been simply a long list of accusations made against the authorities.

Whether it's the duty politician or an in-house journalist described as an expert for the occasion, they have all tried to whitewash the armed groups of guilt for the foul act that left 42 dead.

Forty-eight hours after the bloodbath, the FINANCIAL TIMES spoke of the claims of responsibility for the operation, which Anouar Haddam clearly attributed to terrorist groups. The daily AL-HAYAT repeated it the next day, 2 February, but not a word was mentioned in a single French media organ. The exception, if it can be so called, was TF1, which devoted a few seconds to it at 0040 on the night of Saturday to Sunday. As far as prime time goes, you'll agree, it could be better, but then it's a matter of wanting to.

And there one must have doubts, unfortunately, because there are many journalists on the other side of the Mediterranean, who are star pupils on the subject of true democracy and individual freedom, who have long since made themselves the spokesmen of the fundamentalist trends. In this they are following the line traced by a political party that is in the process of collapse, and which regularly makes Algeria part of its assets to be sold [fonds de commerce] in its electoral campaigns.

Abducted FLN Leader Reportedly Decapitated

NC0502181495 Paris AFP in English 1810 GMT 5 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Algiers, Feb 5 (AFP)—A leader of Algeria's National Liberation Front (FLN), Ahmed Kasmi, has been decapitated, security services said Sunday [5 February].

Kasmi, a member of the central committee of the FLN—formerly Algeria's sole political party—was abducted Tuesday. Only his head was recovered Thursday in a railway station at Khemis-Miliana west of Algiers, the evening daily Horizons quoted security services as saying.

Ex-Boumediene Minister To Run for President

LD0502202895 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 5 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic Arab Rally announced that Ahmed Bencherif, a minister during the era of the late President Houari Boumediene, will stand as a candidate in the presidential elections.

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Mubarak: Violence Will Flare If Israel-PLO Talks Fail

NC0302161095 Paris AFP in English 1346 GMT 3 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Feb 3 (AFP)—Egyptian President Husni Mubarak warned Friday [3 February] that a new wave of violence could erupt if Israel and the PLO failed to break the deadlock in their autonomy talks.

The talks on Palestinian elections and Israeli troop redeployment are due to resume Monday after weeks of deadlock were followed by an Israeli freeze of the negotiations after 21 Israelis were killed in a suicide bombing on January 22.

"Terrorism will be the only substitute if the peace (process) fails," Mubarak warned, the day after he hosted a summit with the leaders of Israel, Jordan and the PLO that agreed to resume the talks.

"The collapse of the Israeli-PLO talks will provoke a number of problems in the region politically, economically, socially and for security," he told the newspaper AL-MASA'.

"During the summit we studied in detail the main issues: settlements, the redeployment of Israeli forces (on the West Bank) and elections" to a Palestinian self-rule council, he said.

But he did not specify the results of the discussions.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin who took part in the summit with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat and King Husayn of Jordan did not give any commitment on settlements or a date for a redeployment of troops.

Political Affairs Official Assesses Cairo Summit

JN0302195795 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1800 GMT 3 Feb 95

[Interview with Dr. Usamah al-Baz, director of President Mubarak's Office for Political Affairs, by correspondent Salim Badawi on 3 February; place not given; from "The Event" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Baz] We believed that convening this meeting would invigorate and expedite the negotiations because we have noticed that the peace negotiations on the Palestinian track have foundered, thus threatening them. There were two reasons for our anxiety. The first was the slowness of the negotiations that were under way between the Palestinian and Israeli side. The second was the measures Israel took on the ground. There are settlement activities. There is the complete closure of the occupied territories. This leads to economic stagnation and makes the people feel they are besieged. There are also the statements and the actions having to do with Jerusalem. For all these reasons, we saw that a push must be given to the peace process, particularly on the Palestinian track, but without this having any negative impact on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. On the contrary, we took care to note this in the joint statement that was issued.

[Badawi] In your opinion, did the Cairo summit succeed in extricating the Palestinian-Israeli track from the dilemma it was experiencing?

[Al-Baz] We believe the purpose of the meeting was to activate the negotiations and make Israel feel that it must change its course in the occupied territories. It is true that we knew in advance that it would be impossible to negotiate on all these issues, which are complicated issues, and reach definite results in a few hours. What we wanted is to make the Israeli side feel that it must quickly act on the Palestinian track, and that if this track continues to founder, this could reflect on the entire peace process.

We believe this is a beginning, part of which deals with procedures and part of which deals with expediting the peace vehicle. But, in the final upshot, Israel's intentions will become apparent, as will whether it is possible to achieve positive results later on, in the wake of the negotiations that will become active next week, whether on Monday [6 February], or at the end of the week, or with respect to the measures Israel takes and the policy it adopts in the occupied territories.

[Badawi] Dr. Usamah al-Baz, on the level of practical results and in light of Shim'on Peres' statements that the Cairo summit has an institutional aspect, in your opinion, in Egypt's opinion, can one say that the Cairo summit has given birth to a new axis or a new alliance for peace?

[Al-Baz] First of all, we are against axes in all their forms. Second, if we establish an axis, we will not establish it with Israel in the absence of Arab parties. Third, the peace forces in the region are not restricted to these countries. They also comprise Syria, Lebanon, and the other Arab countries which have proved they are sincere in achieving peace. We cannot call this the peace camp and the others... [pauses] this is a procedural meeting intended to expedite progress on the Palestinian track and no more. We mentioned in the statement that further meetings could be held if there is a need. But, there is no institutionalized aspect, and certainly not an axis. An axis cannot be established with Israel in the absence of Arab parties.

[Badawi] With respect to Syria and in light of this summit, which convened in Cairo five weeks after the Alexandria summit, much has been said about the Syrian absence from this summit, particularly that the Israelis tried to depict the Cairo summit as an attempt to contain the Alexandria summit. What does Egypt have to say about this?

[Al-Baz] This is absolutely not so. This is far from the truth. This is because the relationship between us and the

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other two parties in the Alexandria meeting is a strategic relationship, a relationship of complete harmony with respect to strategic interests and the viewpoints between us and each of fraternal Syria and fraternal Saudi Arabia. The Alexandria summit was intended to review the general Arab state of affairs and the need to enhance joint Arab action, and joint Arab institutions, particularly the Arab League. It was also an occasion for the three countries to state their viewpoints on the need to expedite the peace process, particularly on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks.

As for the meeting that recently convened in Cairo among the four leaders, its objective was not, of course, to discuss Arab solidarity or joint Arab action institutions. The meeting was not devoted to the discussion of the Syrian track. The meeting was confined to discussing two points. The first was how to expedite progress on the Palestinian track, and to denounce the acts of violence by the two parties and the need for quick action so that the elements that are hostile to peace, whether in Israel or in other places, will not be the winners.

[Badawi] How should Egypt's role in the two summits, the Alexandria and Cairo summits, be understood?

[Al-Baz] It is not correct to link the two summits because there is no linkage. The Alexandria summit was an Arab mini-summit and discussed the Arab state of affairs in general and sought to formulate an Arab strategic concept for the future. This is something we will actively pursue. We hope this will be expanded and will include other Arab countries and will become a venue for dialogue in the future. As for the meeting which convened here, it had nothing to with the Alexandria summit. It neither adds to or changes anything. We are speaking here of the Palestinian track. Had the circumstances engulfing the negotiations and the circumstances between Syria and Israel allowed for Syria's presence in such a meeting, this would have made us very happy because we are eager to have Syria's presence and role, as this role is a central one in the peace process.

[Badawi] Dr. Usamah al-Baz, my last question. In your opinion, can the Cairo summit be viewed as a new step forward in Egyptian- U.S. relations and Egyptian-Israeli relations, which recently became somewhat cool?

[Al-Baz] No. We say the following: What will give Israeli-Arab relations a new impetus is that Israel assiduously carries on with the negotiations and changes the way it deals with all the Arab people, particularly the Palestinian people and fraternal Syria and Lebanon. This is what will have a genuine impact on relations. Holding a meeting could dampen the atmosphere for some time. It could lead to expediting negotiations. But, in the final upshot, what is important is the result of the negotiations that will take place soon and the measures, policy, and practices Israel adopts, particularly in the occupied territories.

[Badawi] But what about the Egyptian-U.S. level and the Egyptian-Israeli level, will there be any change? I mean, will the Cairo summit be a new step forward in your relations with the Americans, who welcomed and supported the Egyptian president's initiative?

[Al-Baz] No, no. Our relationship with the United States is governed by our concept of how we could cooperate with the United States, which is a friendly country and which is playing a basic role in the peace process. From this premise, we view it as a friendly party which could be of assistance, whether in the peace process or in the field of economic cooperation. We do not hold a summit with a group of countries in the region to improve our relations with the United States. This is not a new step in our relationship with Israel, either.

[Badawi] Dr. Usamah al-Baz, thank you.

Commentary Notes Summit's Success in Ending 'Stagnation'

NC0302151395 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 3 Feb 95

[Commentary by Zayn al-Ja'fari: "The Quadripartite Succeeded in Eliminating the Stagnation on the Palestinian-Israeli Track"]

[FBIS Translated Text] All developments in the Middle East indicate that the peace process is going through an extremely serious stage. There is a noticeable shift in the public trend in Israel toward courting the hardline currents, after moderate language promising peace and aspiring for its desirable fruits had prevailed for some time. It seems that this hardline current will gradually gain more ground in Israel with the election campaign and the attempts to win over the antipeace voters, particularly among Jewish settlers.

Out of President Mubarak's awareness of this danger, he hastened to call for a quadripartite summit that was held in Cairo yesterday and brought together, in addition to President Mubarak, Jordanian King Husayn, Palestinian National Authority Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. The main goal of this personal initiative by President Mubarak was to rescue the Middle East peace process from collapse and avert the consequences resulting from such collapse. Nobody could foretell the seriousness of these consequences for all the region's peoples.

It is clear from the statements made by the four leaders following their extensive talks after the banquet hosted by President Mubarak yesterday that their talks went beyond mere wishes. There was an acknowledgment of the real reasons leading to the recent stagnation in the peace process. These reasons do not go beyond the reasons previously given by Egypt; namely, Israel's reluctance to implement the next stages of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement and Israel's return to settlement expansion in the occupied Palestinian territories. Egypt has repeatedly warned that the rising violence and counter violence in the occupied territories recently are the result of Israel's stance, which is the reason the fruits of peace

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have not yet matured. Egypt also cautioned that the advocates of violence among some Palestinian factions will not find receptive ears if the Palestinians feel that there are real fruits from peace.

The quadripartite summit has come at a time when the peace process is taking an extremely serious turn. We do not wish here to go into details, but suffice it to mention that the Israeli prime minister's remarks, or the remarks attributed to him, lead one to believe that Israel is contemplating a peace that is completely different from the peace for which the Arabs have fought the battles of peace. These remarks coincide with another Israeli stand that is even more serious; that is, Israel's insistence on continuing to upgrade its nuclear power. This issue was not among the topics discussed at the quadripartite summit, but Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa pointed out after his talks with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres the day before yesterday that the discussion of this matter will continue following the quadripartite summit. He voiced confidence that the two sides will take a step forward toward effectively tackling this problem.

Egypt's position regarding this problem is quite clear, as Minister Musa has stressed. We want the Middle East to be a zone completely free of weapons of mass destruction, nuclear weapons in particular. In this regard, Musa pointed out in his press statement following yesterday's five-hour summit that the four leaders reiterated their determination to give momentum to the peace process, adding that the Middle East must be free of weapons of mass destruction. He added that negotiations between Egypt and Israel will continue to tackle this issue effectively.

The quadripartite summit has succeeded in eliminating the stagnation on the Palestinian-Israeli peace track. A series of meetings will be held in this regard. They will begin with a meeting on Palestinian elections, to be followed by other meetings with a view to activating the peace process and accelerating the peace efforts on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. Thus, the quadripartite summit proves to be an important step toward activating the peace process and eliminating the stalemate caused by several factors in the recent past.

Musa on Damascus Declaration Meeting, Arab Solidarity

NC0402145495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1220 GMT 4 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 4 Feb (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has pointed out that the meeting of the foreign ministers of the Damascus Declaration countries which will be held in Cairo tomorrow, Sunday [5 February], is primarily aimed at stimulating the role of these countries and the possibilities of cooperation within the framework of Arab solidarity and expanding the scopes of cooperation among the eight member states. In a statement to reporters today at the end of President Mubarak's audiences, Musa said that after consolidating cooperation, joint action, and Arab solidarity, Egypt will seek to bring about the same level of cooperation among all members of the Arab League. Musa stressed that in the current circumstances it is not in the interest of the Arab countries to weaken or impede joint Arab action in any direction by the Arab groupings.

Musa emphasized that considering the current circumstances and challenges, efforts are needed to enhance the role of the Damascus Declaration, the Arab Maghreb Union, and the Gulf Cooperation Council to promote and expand cooperation, cohesion, and solidarity among Arab countries.

Responding to a question on the tripartite meeting among the foreign ministers of Egypt, Jordan, and Palestine in Cairo this evening to discuss the Palestinian refugee issue, Musa said that the goal of the meeting is to coordinate the Arab position before the quadripartite meeting among Egypt, Jordan, Palestine, and Israel set to be held in Jordan the last week of February.

Asked if the border dispute between Saudi Arabia and Yemen is about to be settled, Musa said that serious efforts are under way to end the border crisis and will continue until we are able to settle the crisis.

Asked about his coming visit to Japan, the United States, Germany, and France, Musa said that he will discuss a number of topics during these visits, primarily the peace process, the situation in the Middle East, the Israeli nuclear program, regional cooperation, and bilateral ties between Egypt and these countries.

PLO's Qaddumi Arrives, To Hold Talks With Musa

NC0402065595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2235 GMT 3 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 3 Feb (MENA)—Faruq Qaddumi, chief of the PLO Political Department, arrived in Cairo from Tunis this evening on a visit that will last for several days.

Qaddumi will hold talks with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa on the latest developments in the Arab arena.

Yemen's al-Iryani Arrives With Message for Mubarak

NC0402065995 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2239 GMT 3 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 3 Feb (MENA)—Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, Yemeni deputy prime minister and foreign minister, arrived in Cairo from Paris this evening on a visit of several days.

On his arrival, al-Iryani stated that he is carrying a message for President Mubarak from Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih concerning bilateral ties and the latest developments in the Arab arena.

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The Yemeni official will meet during the visit with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa.

Meets With Mubarak

NC0402103595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1013 GMT 4 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 4 Feb (MENA)—At the presidential office this morning President Husni Mubarak received Dr. 'Abd-al- Karim al-Iryani, Yemeni deputy prime minister and foreign minister, who is currently visiting Cairo. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa.

Al-Iryani arrived in Cairo last night on a visit of several days to Egypt.

Comments on Meeting With Mubarak

NC0402123995 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1150 GMT 4 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 4 Feb (MENA)—Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, Yemeni deputy prime minister and foreign minister, said after his meeting with President Mubarak today that he conveyed a message to the president from his brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of Yemen. He said the message deals with relations between the two sisterly countries, the developments in the Gulf and the Arabian Peninsula, and the peace process.

He said he informed President Mubarak of the details of the negotiations between Yemen and Saudi Arabia in Riyadh. He said the negotiations seek to reach an understanding on the right form of Saudi-Yemeni relations and solve the border problem based on the al-Ta'if agreement of 1934 and the principles of international law.

He said President Salih is eager to keep his brother President Mubarak fully informed of the details of the negotiations in Riyadh.

Asked if these negotiations promise any hope, he replied: "God willing, we hope they will."

Asked about the military concentrations on the border between the two countries, al-Iryani said: I think the concentration on the Saudi side of the border were withdrawn. He stressed that Yemen did not mass troops on the border.

Mubarak Receives Brown on 1st Leg of Mideast Tour

NC0502090395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0840 GMT 5 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 5 Feb (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has received at the Presidential Palace U.S. Commerce Secretary Ronald Brown and his delegation who arrived in Cairo this morning.

Sources at the U.S. Embassy in Cairo said the U.S. commerce secretary's visit to Egypt is part of his tour of the Middle East region which will also take him to Israel, Jordan, and the Palestinian self-rule areas to discuss removing trade barriers and supporting the private sector in the Middle East region.

The U.S. secretary's visit will also take him to Qatar, Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates.

Oman's Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Comments on Meeting With Peres

NC0502124895 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1140 GMT 5 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 5 Feb (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met today with Yusuf Bin-'Alawi, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs.

Yusuf Bin-'Alawi stated that during the meeting, they discussed issues in the Arab arena and topics pertaining to the meetings of the Damascus Declaration foreign ministers, which will be held this evening in Cairo.

He said that the Sultanate of Oman supports and backs cooperation among the Declaration's countries in various fields.

Answering a question on Omani-Israeli contacts, Mr. Yusuf Bin- 'Alawi said that he met with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres yesterday within the framework of the peace process, and attempts to bolster the multilateral talks and confirm the importance of establishing peace as soon as possible.

He clarified that the four-way Egyptian-Jordanian-Palestinian- Israeli summit held in Cairo was successful and discussed the basic issues. Everyone confirmed their determination to make progress in the peace process, he said.

Regarding the issues of the Arab world, the Omani minister expressed his hope that Arab issues will be resolved and that Arab cooperation will be bolstered in various fields.

Saudi Foreign Minister Meets With Mubarak

NC0602102095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0940 GMT 6 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 6 Feb (MENA)—Following a meeting with President Husni Mubarak today, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal said he conveyed a message to Mubarak from King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques. The message, he added, deals with the constant consultations and common efforts at the meetings of the Damascus Declaration's eight member states. He added that Egypt and Saudi Arabia have common views regarding the Arab issues under discussion at the meetings as well as concerning some of the current issues in the region.

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Asked if another tripartite summit, similar to the one held in Alexandria [among Egyptian, Syrian, and Saudi leaders] will be held and, if so when, Prince al-Faysal said it was agreed in Alexandria to continue meetings among the three states, but added that no date has yet been set for a meeting.

Asked about the ongoing negotiations between Yemen and Saudi Arabia over the border issue, Prince al-Faysal said that negotiations are continuing and that Saudi Arabia wants these negotiations to succeed. It also wants relations between the two sisterly states to be strong and based on good neighborliness and common goals. He said he hoped the results of the negotiations would live up to hopes and aspirations, adding that Saudi Arabia is working to clear the atmosphere and make the negotiations succeed.

On Saudi Arabia's stance regarding nuclear weapons, Prince al- Faysal said this topic will be discussed and the Arab states will try to reach a common position through the Arab League.

Qatari Minister Backs Egypt's Stand on NPT

NC0602122595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1040 GMT 6 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 6 Feb (MENA)—Qatari Foreign Minister Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Al Thani stated, following his meeting with President Mubarak today, that he had conveyed greetings to the president from the Qatari amir and heir apparent. Their discussion focused on the latest developments in the Arab world, bilateral relations, and the Damascus Declaration member states' meetings and on ways to consolidate and activate this declaration, he added.

Asked about relations between Qatar and Israel in light of the meetings held between the two sides, the Qatari foreign minister said that there are no relations between the two, neither political nor economic. He added that Qatar and Israel hold some meetings and discussions, but nothing has yet materialized in the political or economic fields.

The Qatari foreign minister said that his country supports Egypt's position on renewing the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT], which he described as just. He added: All countries in the region must comply with this treaty; it is not right for any country to be exempted from signing the treaty.

Asked about efforts to clear the Arab atmosphere, the Qatari official said discussion of this issue is long overdue and that the time has come for the Arabs to tackle it seriously. He added: The Arabs must clear up things among themselves because there are many interests that we must preserve that are of supreme importance to the Arab nation.

In response to a question about Qatari-Bahraini relations, the Qatri foreign minister said that the relations are good, noting that the dispute between the two is now before the International Court of Justice.

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Kuwait

Poll: 89% Against Normalizing Relations With Iraq

LD0502200395 Tehran IRNA in English 1821 GMT 5 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Genavh, Hormozgan Prov. Feb. 5, IRNA—An opinion poll carried by Kuwaiti daily AL-SEYASSA indicates that 89 percent of Kuwaiti people are against resumption of Kuwait and Iraq's bilateral ties.

According to reports by Iraqi people's radio only 48 percent of those who were questioned have sympathized with Iraqi people at present condition.

80.5 percent of those who took part in the opinion poll will never forget the hardships and nightmares of occupation period.

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Newspapers View Cairo Summit

LD0402151995 Riyadh SPA in English 1224 GMT 4 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riyadh, Feb 4, SPA—Saudi Arabic newspapers today focused their editorial comments on the prospects of activiation of the peace process in the light of the latest Cairo summit. Jeddah-based AL-MADINAH, commenting on the developments of the situation in the Middle East, said the Palestinian uprising had put an end to the Israeli dreams of establishing the greater Israel comprising an extended area from the River Nile in Egypt to Euphrates River in Iraq. It was believed that the political developments that followed Madrid and Oslo agreements would change the Israeli way of thinking, but the behaviour of Israel has completely damaged such a belief, the daily said.

On the conference of Cairo, which is being attended by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, King Husayn of Jordan, President Yasir 'Arafat of Palestine and Israeli Premier Yitzhaq Rabin, Jeddah-based AL-BILAD said the convening of the conference had come following the incident of Natanya, carried out by the Palestinian commandos. The incident of Natanya led to suspension of negotiations between the Palestinians and the Israelis. The daily pointed out that following the conference of Cairo Rabin reiterated that Israel will never sign the treaty of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

With such a behaviour, Israel has proved that it is planning to become the sole nuclear power in the Middle East, said the daily and added 'thus Israel has not yet stepped even one step on the path of peace.'

On the same topic, 'UKAZ, which is also published in Jeddah, said as the Palestinian cause constitutes the core of the Arab-Israeli dispute, the outcome of the Palestinian-Israeli talks is the real indicator for progress in the peace process. It should be clear that the summit of Cairo, which was an endeavour to salvage the peace process, could not be used for other purposes, said the daily. In general the conference of Cairo has reiterated its opposition to resorting to violence and terrorism as a way for gaining rights, the daily said.

For its part, Dammam-based AL-YAWM said the reaction of Israel following the conference of Cairo indicates that the Jewish state has not yet adapted itself to understand the requirements of peace. Besieging the West Bank and Gaza Strip as well as going ahead in the settlement policy will run counter to the peace process, the daily said. Nothing can indicate that Israel has changed its policy towards the Palestinians following Cairo conference, said the daily.

Riyadh-based AL-JAZIRAH said Israel, under the leadership of Rabin, has not shown keenness on the implementation of the Palestinian autonomy rule agreement. Israel is still preventing the Palestinians of Gaza and Jericho from moving to the West Bank and at the same time it is escaping from releasing the Palestinian detainees, said the daily. It should be clear that the operation of Natanya was directed against an army that takes repressive measures against the Palestinians, said the daily and added 'so when they condemn violence they should also trace its causes'.

Yemen

Salih Urges Dialogue To Resolve Saudi Dispute

JN0502173295 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 5 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother President Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih met with the brother ulema and members of the judiciary yesterday evening. They discussed several issues, as well as developments on the national and regional scenes and issues related to the national construction endeavor. They also discussed the role the ulema can play to address current developments, guide the community toward all that will promote national unity, amity, solidarity, tolerance, and brotherhood among the sons of the homeland, and foster noble religious and moral values in order to promote further prosperity.

During the meeting, the brother president delivered a speech. He began by welcoming the brother ulema on the advent of the holy month of Ramadan. He said that he was happy with this meeting, which came in the aftermath of the undeniable victory achieved for unity, which marked an end to the secessionist plot, thanks to God and the people's support for their armed forces and security troops.

The brother president added: This victory was not the prize of any one single person, party, or group. It was a victory for Yemen and unity. There was no victor or vanquished in this war. For the victor in this conflict was

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the whole Yemeni people, who safeguarded their unity and confronted the conspiracies targeting it. He underscored the importance of the role the ulema can play in this regard, given the fact that they are the inheritors of the prophets in terms of providing guidance to help achieve victory, promoting goodness and discouraging evil, and immunizing the community against those who are given to fomenting confusion. He also urged them to nurture amity, tolerance, solidarity, and peace in the hearts and minds of the community in order to enhance and strengthen national unity and mobilize the potential of all in the battle of building a new Yemen.

The brother president reviewed the ordeal and hardships faced by our country, indicating that those who spearheaded the secession were merely tools that carried out a conspiracy with a view to tearing Yemen apart and destroying the people's resources. He added: Under the current circumstances, we must work to heal the rift, promote forgiveness, and open a new chapter grounded in tolerance and cooperation. In your capacity as ulema, you must set an example for the community by way of promoting allegiance, patriotism, and national cohesion, and shunning hatred and parochial partisan or sectarian prejudices that the enemy could use to sow division. You must do all that will promote national cohesion in the country and put the Yemeni house in order. In the course of this endeavor, you must rehabilitate national principles and constants so that our people can cope with external challenges undivided, strong, and armed with deep faith in God, the homeland, the revolution, and unity.

The brother president went on to say: Competition under the multiparty system of democracy must manifest itself through programs that offer the best solutions to address deficiencies in practices and governance. Criticism must be constructive. It must aim to correct mistakes, rather than cause harm and destruction. Our tolerance toward the exercise of democracy should remain impeccable. We must exercise our democratic rights with a high sense of national responsibility. Likewise, we must set the best possible example in order to enhance democracy.

In his speech, the brother president reviewed the current developments between our country and the fraternal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia against the background of the ongoing negotiations between a Yemeni delegation and the fraternal Saudis with a view to achieving a final, comprehensive, and just solution to the Yemeni-Saudi border dispute.

The brother president noted the efforts our country has made and the goodwill it has shown to resolve the border dispute with the fraternal Saudis on the basis of dialogue and fraternal understanding, which should harm nobody but ensure the restoration of the legitimate rights of both sides. Each side should be spared the feeling that any future solution could do it injustice or undermine its rights. Moreover, any future solution must ensure stable, growing, and enhanced ties between the two neighboring countries. Such a solution must render the borders bridges of communication and amity between the two fraternal peoples, and thwart any hostile schemes to foment sedition and war between them at present or in the future. Such schemes would definitely seek to exhaust the two countries' resources within the context of a plan targeted against the region and the nation's resources in general.

The brother president went on to say: We are a country that seeks peace and security. We are keen on protecting the Saudi people and the Saudi Army just as we are keen on protecting the Yemeni people and the Yemeni Army. For we are brothers, and the sons of a single Arab and Islamic nation.

The brother president asserted that border issues cannot be resolved by the use of force, or by imposing a fait accompli, but rather by dialogue, fraternal understanding, and recourse to common sense and peaceful means, which are bound to satisfy people and ensure the prosperity and wellbeing of all.

The brother president noted the challenges and conspiracies our country faced in the past, as well as the current plots to strangle our national economy and create livelihood difficulties for citizens in order to starve the people and bring them to their knees, saying: Our people have faced all plots and challenges with awareness and patience, and emerged stronger, more powerful, and with greater faith in their principles and goals. They will bow to nobody other than almighty God. They will demonstrate greater cohesion in their efforts to address economic challenges. They will cope with difficulties, God willing, thanks to their awareness and serious efforts to identify sound solutions to economic problems.

The brother president underlined the need for the government to shoulder its responsibility by adopting courageous and speedy decisions in order to stabilize the citizens' living conditions, promote the national economy, and repulse any harmful plotting or practices.

For their part, the brother ulema presented the brother president with a copy of the statement issued by the Yemeni Ulema Society issued at the end of the meeting it held on 10 January 1995. In their statement, they underscored their own stands and perspectives toward overall national, regional, Islamic, and international issues.

Receives Letter From President Clinton

JN0502181095 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih today received a letter from U.S. President Bill Clinton concerning issues related to bilateral ties and regional developments of mutual concern.

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The letter expressed the United States' satisfaction with and support for the negotiations now underway between our country and the brothers in Saudi Arabia to reach a solution to the Yemeni-Saudi border problem. The letter also underlines the United States' interest in seeing normal and friendly ties established between the two neighboring countries to help strengthen security, stability, and peace in the region.

The letter was relayed by David Newton, U.S. ambassador to our country, during a meeting with the brother president today.

Speaker Calls Border Negotiations 'Promising'

NC0502145995 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1332 GMT 5 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Sanaa, 5 Feb (MENA)—Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, speaker of the Yemeni House of Representatives and chairman of the Yemeni delegation to the current Yemeni-Saudi negotiations in Riyadh, has announced that the awaited summit between Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and King Fahd Bin- 'Abd-al-'Aziz will be held before the end of Ramadan [February] to discuss a definitive settlement of the border dispute between the two countries.

In an interview with the London-based weekly newspaper AL- MUSTAQILLAH published on Monday [6 February], Shaykh al-Ahmar noted that the summit was delayed because of the two leaders' prior engagements but indications show that it will be held before the end of Ramadan.

Al-Ahmar, who is the supreme chieftain of the Yemeni Hashid tribes, criticized certain media for exaggerating the news about this issue and blowing things out of proportion. He pointed out that the Yemeni-Saudi negotiations are promising. He denied that there is tension on the border and said what is happening is mere friction between border patrols or some tribesmen. He described this as a "very normal matter."

Shaykh al-Ahmar explained that the Yemeni-Saudi negotiations are drawing to a close and the foundations of the final settlement have been drawn up. He explained that the al-Ta'if Treaty [of 1934] furnished part of the border demarcation but left out another part. He said that the current negotiations seek to reach a final settlement that will benefit both countries.

The speaker of the Yemeni House of Representatives emphasized that the Yemeni-Saudi relationship is a special one. He said that it will go back to normal and even become better than before.

He pointed out that the United States welcomes the negotiations and the current dialogue between the two countries and will back any agreement they reach.

Declaring that certain circles wish to provoke trouble between Saudi Arabia and Yemen, Al-Ahmar accused the former leaders of the Yemeni Socialist Party of being against mending Yemeni-Saudi relations because conspiracy, sabotage, and sowing the seeds of dissension is part of their nature.

Prime Minister, Jordanian Envoy Discuss Border Issue

JN0402172195 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 4 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Yemeni Prime Minister 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani received in Sanaa today Jordanian Ambassador to Yemen Fayiz al-Rabi'.

Talks dealt with bilateral fraternal relations and ways of developing them. The prime minister emphasized the need to convene the Higher Jordanian-Yemeni Committee.

Talks also dealt with some issues and difficulties facing Jordanian investors in Yemen. It was agreed to form a committee comprising the economic adviser of the embassy and the legal adviser in the Prime Ministry in order to monitor and overcome these difficulties.

The Yemeni prime minister briefed the ambassador on the situation on the Saudi-Yemeni borders, and the desire of the Yemeni side to resolve the problem through friendly means in order to open the way for Arab cooperation, which Yemen and Jordan are eager to develop.

Meanwhile, Dr. Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, Yemeni deputy prime minister and minister of industry and trade and acting foreign minister, received the Jordanian ambassador in Sanaa today. He acquainted the ambassador with the developments related to the border issue. He emphasized Yemen's desire to avoid anything that harms fraternal relations with Saudi Arabia.

Parties, Groups Form 'Democratic Coalition of Opposition'

LD0302192595 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Sanaa, 2 Feb—Yesterday, in Sanaa 13 political parties and organizations outside the regime announced the formation of an opposition group to be known as "The Democratic Coalition of Opposition."

'Abd al-Rahman Marhyub, head of the preparatory committee of the plenary meeting which announced the creation of the new coalition of Yemeni opposition, said that "The creation of the coalition has come as a natural response to the outside challenges facing the Yemeni people at this critical stage of history, and out of the understanding of the political forces outside the regime of their role in the national opposition to combat financial and administrative corruption and to contribute to the confrontation of all negative social, economic, and security manifestations."

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Marhyub, who leads the Socialist Arab Ba'th Party in Yemen, also said that the new democratic coalition of the opposition will try to avoid propagandistic escapades practiced by the parties linked to abroad. He explained that "the opposition coalition" is an umbrella grouping which aims at consolidating the opposition on a patriotic basis and keen on practicing democracy.

A statement issued after the first meeting of the Democratic Coalition of Opposition says that the leaderships of the political parties and organizations which took part in the preparatory meeting for setting up the first democratic alliance of the opposition in the country, agreed to form the coalition from the following parties:

The Socialist Arab Ba'th Party; the Democratic Nasirite Party; the Islamic Al-Nahdha Movement; the Yemeni Socialist Party, the splinter faction; the National Democratic Front; Rabitat Abna' Al- Yemen; the Liberation Front Party; Rabitat Abna' Al-Yemen, the legitimate leadership; the Nasirite Organization; the Revolutionary Democratic Party; the Social Nationalist Party; the Yemeni Unionist Grouping; and the Fattah Unionist Trend of the Socialist Party.

The statement adds that the "Coalition discussed the deteriorating economic conditions in the country, which are affecting the living standards of the people, and it calls on the government to shoulder its responsibilities by taking speedy and decisive measures to alleviate the economic burdens in light of the government program endorsed by parliament at the end of November of last year."

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SAIRI Chairman Upbeat on Possible Moves Against Saddam

LD0402213495 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 4 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] SAIRI [Supreme Assembly of Islamic Revolution in Iraq] Chairman Mohammad Baqir al-Hakim, said that the Iraqi regime was using the suffering of the Iraqi people, by claiming that there was a tragedy in Iraq that was caused by the air embargo imposed on it.

In a news conference today, al-Hakim said that the suffering of the people was caused by measures imposed by the regime with a view to misleading the international community regarding the effect of the sanctions.

[Begin al-Hakim recording] The embargo on Saddam must be maintained. This means that Saddam must be prevented from getting his hands on oil revenues.

There are two main reasons for Saddam's continued stay in power. The first is the wide repressive campaign exercised by the regime against the Iraqi people, who must undertake the task of changing the regime inside Iraq, and the molding of a military body as a police force that performs the duties of the police in watching people, restricting their movement, and repressing them whenever the existence of a move against the regime is felt.

The second reason is that the great resources that the Iraqi people and the Iraqi political opposition possess in the process of change have been neutralized, or more precisely have not been benefited from.

The idea of bringing about change through a military coup used to dominate political action, which we believed from the outset to be unrealistic and impractical. The freezing or not benefiting from the resources is the other main reason.

In this context, I have already said that there is a real opportunity, inside or outside Iraq, to bringing about a change in 1995. I base my idea regarding this opportunity on the condition of the Iraqi people; there are solid grounds for the people to organize themselves to carry out an action against the regime.

There is also a wide response from the army to carry out such an operation. I have figures and information that confirm this. Moreover, there is an opportunity to see the UN force the regime to further carry out Resolution 687. The implementation of this resolution was not done willingly, but the UN was able to oblige the regime to implement some of the articles of this resolution. Therefore, the UN can force the regime to carry out other resolutions, such as Resolution 688, 706, and 712. Resolution 688 forbids the regime to undertake acts of repression, therefore, it deals with the point you have raised to the effect that the regime engages in repression. Therefore, the regime could be forced to stop the acts of repression, and then the people will have an opportunity to move and topple the regime. [end recording]

Pilots Arrested for Plotting To Overthrow Regime

NC0502150095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1310 GMT 5 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 5 Feb (MENA)—The independent weekly newspaper AL-RISALAH reports today that three Iraqi pilots were recently arrested after being accused of preparing an attempt to overthrow the regime in Baghdad.

The paper cites Iraqi sources in Baghdad as saying the group leader is from the al-Dulaymi family and a relative of former Information Minister Latif Nasif Jasim al-Dulaymi. The sources added that the plan was due to be carried out on 6 January, Iraqi Army Day, through a raid on the Republican Palace in Baghdad.

Opposition Warns Regime Against Bids To Break Blockade

LD0402171495 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1545 GMT 4 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait, 4 Feb—In a statement circulated today, the higher council for the Islamic revolution in Iraq censored the fact that some states are seeking immediate interests which, they imagine, they can achieve through the Iraqi regime, overlooking the repression and persecution of the Iraqi people. The council warns against the policy of the Iraqi regime to break the blockade with a view to renewing its military machine behind political facades and then return to wars and aggression against the Iraqi people and its neighbors.

The statement was issued by a delegation of the council currently visiting Kuwait under the chairmanship of head of the council Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim. [passage omitted]

Iraqi Refugees in Israel Fear Possible Extradition

MM0302155495 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 3 Feb 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by Ilyas Nasrallah: "31 Iraqi Refugees Fear Extradition to Baghdad"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London, exclusive—Well-informed sources told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday that the reports of secret contacts between Iraq and Israel have aroused the fears of 31 Iraqi refugees in Israel that they might be extradited to Baghdad in any possible deal between the two countries.

Meanwhile, the legal adviser to the Israeli human rights committee has revealed that two Sudanese citizens, namely Nelson Nibyu and Joseph Tumbah [surnames as transliterated], were executed in Khartoum after Israel returned them to Jordan, which, in turn, extradited them to Sudan.

Tsifi Rush [as transliterated] said that Jordan extradited the two Sudanese nationals to Khartoum although it knew what fate was in store for them. [passage omitted]

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Rush says that, if Israel deports Iraqi political refugees to Jordan, they will inevitably be extradited to Iraq, where a fate similar to that of Nibyu and Tumbah is awaiting them.

The Iraqis, who are seeking political asylum in Israel, entered Israel illegally by infiltrating the Jordanian border in stages since October 1993. [passage omitted]

Refugees: Regime Preventing Others From Leaving

LD0402201595 Tehran IRNA in English 1949 GMT 4 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ahvaz, Khuzerstan Prov., Feb. 4, IRNA—Iraqi refugees in Hourolhoweizeh said today that the Iraqi Government had adopted extreme devices since a fortnight ago for preventing flight to Iran of Iraqis near the southern marshlands of Iraq.

They said that Iraqi border guards and patrols had increased their regular round-the-clock checks along Iraq's water-borders with Iran.

5,500 Iraqis seeking asylum with Iran are now in Hourolhoweizeh district.

PUK Commentary Assails KDP 'Terrorist Operations'

NC0502183695 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1530 GMT 5 Feb 95

[Station Commentary: "Agents of the Kurdistan Democratic Party, KDP, Step Up Terrorist Operations in al-Sulaymaniyah Town"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The KDP [Kurdish Democratic Party] security service agents have stepped up their criminal and terrorist operations against the citizens and vital utilities and installations in the Kurdistan region. The decisionmaking body in the Barzani leadership issued clear instructions to its gunmen and agents to sabotage power, water, and telephone networks as well as bridges in Kurdistan. However, such criminal acts backfired on the Barzani leadership and triggered the outrage of the Kurdish masses.

Instead of learning the lesson of the negative effects resulting from its reckless irresponsible practices, the KDP leadership recently pursued a different terrorist policy against the defenseless citizens in al-Sulaymaniyah with the aim of shaking security and stability and terrorizing the citizens. The citizens are voicing their condemnation of the bestial acts by the decisionmaking body of the Barzani leadership. This leadership is hostile to all the Kurdish people and their democratic experiment. The planting of explosives and the hurling of hand grenades on the citizens' houses when darkness falls represent an impotent policy that will only generate the Kurdish masses' anger and denunciation and will further intensify the isolation of this leadership.

The KDP's decisionmaking body is trying to drag the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] into adopting stringent measures against the KDP members in [word indistinct] now that they realized the real intentions and inhumane practices of the KDP leadership. [words indistinct].

No doubt, the KDP's decisionmaking body is aware of the dangers inherent in its ill intentions and reckless policies, which are all targeted against the interests of the Kurdish masses and the democratic experiment in Kurdistan. These policies will certainly demoralize the KDP gunmen and cadres. This grave matter [words indistinct].

While strongly condemning these irresponsible practices by the KDP decisionmaking body and security service, the PUK is determined to continue its previous line toward all the members and cadres of the KDP in all the Kurdish towns. The PUK will not be forced by the KDP's practices and policies to adopt measures against the supporters of the KDP, regardless of their party ranks. The PUK is fully aware of the KDP's attempts to drag it to the same trench and pursue the same policies against the Kurdish masses. The collective punishment is something rejected by the PUK. But the criminal hands, which insist on destabilizing the situation in Kurdistan and jeopardizing the lives of citizens, will receive their just punishment sooner or later.

PUK's Talabani Chairs Meeting on Security in Irbil

NC0302205995 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1530 GMT 3 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother Jalal Talabani, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] secretary general, chaired a meeting in Irbil last night that was attended by [name indistinct], deputy director of the security department; Brigadier General Ahmad Musa, director general of the Kurdistan region police; and a number of police and army commanders in Irbil.

Brother Talabani stressed the need to maintain security, stability, and calm inside Irbil and the need to take strict measures against the violators. He also stressed his unlimited support for the police and army and their persistent efforts to maintain stability inside the city of Irbil. He called on the officials to prepare the qualified cadres for working in the police and army and promised to provide the necessary equipment for them.

Brother Talabani also called on the police and army to carry out their duties as government bodies without involving the narrowly based partisan ideas.

Kurdish Figure Urges Parties To Respond to 'Initiative'

JN0402094895 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0725 GMT 4 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 4 Feb (INA)—A Kurdish political figure has urged the warring factions in the

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Kurdistan Autonomous Region to take advantage of the Iraqi leadership's initiative to open dialogue in order to put an end to the fighting and to the suffering of the people of the region.

In an article published by AL-'IRAQ here today, Ibrahim Tahir Salam, deputy secretary of the Kurdistan Revolutionary Party, said: The results of this dialogue will end the tragedy of the people of the region, who have been experiencing difficult conditions for three years as a result of the absence of security and order, the domination of armed factions, and the widespread looting and plundering of public and private property.

Ibrahim Tahir Salam added: The abnormal situation in the Kurdistan region has led to the collapse of the economic, cultural, social, health, and educational structures. He said the Council of Minister's appeal for serious and immediate action to restore stability to the Kurdistan region must be welcomed and blessed by the other side, if those parties are eager, as they claim, to check the bloodshed and end the painful situation of the Kurdistan region.

He also stressed that the tragedy will not end unless the region returns to the lap of the homeland so that it may enjoy security, stability, progress, and prosperity under the engineer of the autonomy, President Saddam Husayn.

Assembly Speaker Returns From Visit to Russia

JN0502114095 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1108 GMT 5 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 5 Feb (INA)—National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih and his accompanying delegation returned to Baghdad today after an official 10-day visit to the Russian Federation.

Sa'di Mahdi Salih told an INA correspondent that the assembly delegation's visit came within the framework of promoting parliamentary relations between Iraq and Russia and ways of promoting them in the service of the two friendly peoples.

He said that the delegation had talks with the Duma speaker, chairman of the Russian Federal Assembly, and a number of Duma committees and parliamentary blocs representing parties in Russia. During those meetings, Iraq's stand on the continued unjust economic blockade imposed on our people was explained.

Kuwait Warned Against Rejecting Reconciliation Efforts

JN0502102295 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0813 GMT 5 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 5 Feb (INA)—AL-THAWRAH has warned the rulers of Kuwait against the serious game of rejecting the clearing up of Arab differences and opposing every honorable call for healing the rift in the Arab nation's pan-Arab security.

In an article today, the mouthpiece of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party says that the calls for reconciliation and Arab solidarity have been welcomed by Iraq and most Arab countries. However, those calls have been facing opposition and hostile, unbecoming statements by the rulers of Kuwait. The paper notes that those statements lack any sense of national or pan-Arab responsibility.

Noting the al-Sabah family's commitment to the instructions, will, and interests of U.S. imperialism and strategy in the region, the paper says that the hostile stand on the issue of reconciliation and clearing up Arab differences proves that the rulers of Kuwait insist on following aggressive U.S. policies that neither serve their interests nor even the interests of the United States, for those policies harm inter-Arab relations and Arab-U.S. relations.

AL-THAWRAH urges the rulers of Kuwait to abandon their obstinate position and their swimming against the current of the Arab will and the Arab nation's pan-Arab interests. Urging them to heed the voice of reason and logic, the paper says that jeopardizing Arab life, security, and future is a dangerous game.

The paper notes Arab rejection of the Kuwaiti logic of sabotaging the Arab house, citing official and popular Arab calls, statements, and stands by gatherings and the mass media, thus reflecting a broad rejection of the policies of the rulers of Kuwait and their masters toward Iraq, which is suffering from a bitter economic blockade with clear effects on children, women, and the elderly.

The paper draws the attention of the al-Sabah family that they will soon become isolated not on the international, Arab, and Islamic levels only, but also on the regional level. In this regard, the paper refers to the honorable calls by Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, and Oman for ending the Arab blockade against Iraq. In addition, other Gulf Cooperation Council states have showed noticeable diversion from the Kuwaiti obstinate policy.

AL-THAWRAH expressed absolute confidence that the blockade will be removed—whether the rulers of Kuwait like it or not. The paper says that the entire world has become aware of this fact, which has emerged as a result of the Iraqi people's steadfastness, patience, and insistence on resisting the injustice of the imperialists and their followers and henchmen.

The paper underlines the soundness of the Iraqi position on the international level regarding the removal of the blockade. It says that Iraq has fulfilled all its obligations toward UN Security Council resolutions, especially Resolution 687. Therefore, in accordance with Paragraph 22 of the said resolution, the UN Security Council should lift the ban on Iraqi oil exports. Those concerned and political observers know that the implementation of this paragraph has nothing to do with any other UN Security Council resolutions.

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Columnist: 'Opportunistic Merchants' Raise Prices

JN0402184595 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 30 Jan 95 p 2

[Article By 'Abd-al-Qadir Jabbar: "Is it a Variety of Insanity?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] We do not exaggerate if we say the citizen bumps up against a new price list every morning and that these prices have begun to cause severe pain to the citizen.

Yes. This is how matters appear some times. And that is why the citizen has grown more helpless in his drive to get his food.

Let us ask: Why this sudden crazy price hike?

Some people attribute it to the 250 dinar banknote and to the 25 dinar banknote becoming the smallest currency unit. Others attribute it, as usual, to the unjust blockade or to the poor agricultural production this year. Before judging these opportunistic merchants, we would like to say that the alleged factor of the 250 dinar banknote is unacceptable. I believe the government has launched this banknote to reduce the quantity of the circulated money and to facilitate banking and selling and buying operations in the market. So, we can say it came in response to the previous price hikes but did not encourage any new price hike. Regarding the blockade, our people have been suffering from problems for four years now, and what has recently taken place is progress toward lifting it, partially of totally. The other alleged factor, poor agricultural production, is also unacceptable because the government has never stopped supplying the citizens with their ration supplies despite the difficult circumstances. Why then is this price hike?

In light of what we have said, we should assert that some unpatriotic merchants, whose acts have amounted to treason under these difficult circumstances, and that some weak and small people, who do not know great Iraq's future and its real potential, are behind the sudden price hike. Yes, a limited number of people are behind that problem. Yet, they inflamed the market with illogic price hikes. They are the same people who invented their cursed tricks in handling our people's food and who are behind the current insanity. Insanity has many varieties.

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Netanyahu Discusses Likud Political Plan

TA0402190195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0805 GMT 4 Feb 95

[Interview with Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu by Hayim Hecht and Shmu'el Tal "earlier this week;" place not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Hecht] Likud Knesset Member Beni Begin said last week that Binyamin Netanyahu, just like Yosi Sarid and Yitzhaq Rabin, does not have any political plan whatsoever. All their proposals are based on an agreement with a partner for whom those proposals are totally unacceptable, Begin said. Therefore, they all are one-sided hypotheses.

Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu told us earlier this week: I have an orderly political plan and I am prepared to disclose it. Shmu'el Tal and myself asked almost all the pertinent questions. Do the answers we received constitute a political plan? We leave it to the listeners to decide.

Sir, I saw on television an excerpt of your speech at the opposition rally in the Tel Aviv Fair Grounds where you spoke about the onslaught of terror. You said people were afraid to leave their homes because they do not know where it might catch them. Next to me sat a man for whom Meretz is an extreme right-wing party. He burst at your image on the screen and said: If you, Netanyahu, if you tell me that when you are the prime minister there will be no such terror attacks, I, leftist that I am, will vote for you. Can you say that to him?

[Netanyahu] No, I will not say that to him because there were and there will probably continue to be terror attacks, although not on the scope, seriousness, and deadliness which has now surpassed all bounds. In fact, the government's policy has led to the creation of sanctuaries of terror around us.

[Hecht] If so, will you tell the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops to enter those sanctuaries—Gaza, Jericho, and Khan Yunus?

[Netanyahu] I will unequivocally announce that terror has no sanctuary.

[Tal] Assuming that you try to return to those places, will this not actually resemble a real war, a war whose beginning you know but whose end you cannot foresee?

[Netanyahu] I do not think there is danger of a war. But, if we continue to build vast bastions of terror, if we emulate the Gaza model in Judaea and Samaria—Gaza is 5 percent of the territory while Judaea and Samaria are 20 times larger....[pauses] The first thing to be done is to give the responsibility for fighting terror to the IDF and the security branches. We cannot trust the PLO, its army of terrorists, or the Palestinian security service. We must trust the Israeli Army and the Israeli Shin Bet.

Second, these troops must be given freedom of action.

Third, the IDF's pullout from the cities must be halted in order to prevent the creation of more sanctuaries of terror in Judaea and Samaria.

Fourth, the release of terrorists must be stopped at once.

Fifth, we must once again provide security and protection to our informants or, as they are widely known, our collaborators. They are our eyes.

[Tal] That means deploying in Gaza.

[Netanyahu] No, it does not mean deploying in Gaza. What it means, first and foremost, is surrounding Gaza with a real fence.

[Tal] How can you protect collaborators?

[Netanyahu] I think the main problem of the collaborators is not Gaza, but the fact that the Palestinian security service—whose presence in Judaea and Samaria, outside the Jericho area, is prohibited—roams the towns of Judaea and Samaria freely.

[Hecht] Sir, will the current policy of a closed Gaza be a constant policy of yours?

[Netanyahu] I think we must do two things in Gaza: First of all, Gaza must be confined by a real border because, to my deep regret, what was created there is a state and not a self-rule area. This state is not confined by a real border.

[Hecht] Are you talking about physical obstacles, such as mine fields, etc.?

[Netanyahu] Of course, I am talking about a proper fence because Gaza is a terror district and the first thing that must be built there is a defense barrier, of course. Gaza is the only place where the idea of a fence is physically feasible, because we are talking only about a few dozen km rather than hundreds of km in the case of Judaea and Samaria.

[Hecht] Sir, will Gazans be allowed to work in Israel or will they kept be locked up within the confines you have just described?

[Netanyahu] I think we could stabilize the situation by doing two things: First, I have always been in favor of encouraging specific economic investments in infrastructure in Gaza. Even when I was the deputy foreign minister, I approached many countries in the West and told them: Invest in Gaza, you should invest in Gaza. I would never have thought of giving the money to 'Arafat because it would end up being spent on his personal needs and on his clique.

[Hecht] You do not want to see Gazan laborers in Israel.

[Netanyahu] That is correct. I think Gazans had better work in Gaza rather than enter Israel's boundaries. Of course, it should be pointed out that I do not in any way

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advocate the dismantling of the settlements in the Qatif Bloc, etc. After all, they would be separated by the border I mentioned.

In my opinion, what is more important is that thousands of foreign laborers could be brought to work in Israel. I think we would be rewarded by the quality and cost of work and the absence of security risks. In other words, I am talking about initiated projects in Gaza which do not go through the Palestinian Authority but are directly managed by the donor countries, and about opening the construction and other business sectors to the international labor market, as is the case today in modern countries around the world. In the United States, it is not the Americans who pick the lettuce in the fields. Somebody else does it, and there is no reason why we should not make it a practice in our country. There is no reason why we should be dependent on these people.

[Tal] Mr. Netanyahu, it is no secret that 70,000 to 80,000 laborers leave Gaza every day for work in Israel. If you keep them there in accordance with your plan, the area could become a very dangerous pressure cooker and who knows how long it would take before katyusha rockets started flying from there.

[Netanyahu] I do not see the main threat coming from Gaza. The threat coming from Gaza is terror. I think our main problem is how we deal with Judaea and Samaria, seeing that Gaza has become a fait accompli, albeit an unfortunate and incorrect one. We must now confine Gaza by means of the economic and security measures I enumerated.

In Judaea and Samaria, I am glad to say, no facts have been created. First of all, we must go back to the model we proposed in Camp David and later on I and my colleagues proposed in Madrid. What we proposed was not a Palestinian state, a Palestinian terror state, but self-rule to the Arab inhabitants of Judaea and Samaria with Israel retaining control over security. In other words, the Palestinian Arabs would be allowed to administer most areas of their everyday lives—the so-called autonomy—while Israel would retain exclusive presence, responsibility and the right to act in the security sphere, exclusive control of the borders, controlling the entry and exit from those areas, and of course, foreign relations. I think that this model—autonomy for the Arabs and security for the Jews—is the only one which can uphold security and enable gradual and safe progress toward the creation of a new reality in the Middle East between us and the Palestinians.

[Hecht] Who would you discuss it with? Who would buy these goods from you, sir?

[Netanyahu] In the past weeks and months, an increasing number of Palestinians have been coming to me and telling me: We want to follow this path. We know that 'Arafat is unreliable, and I say he is rotten to the core.

[Hecht] Do these Palestinians have names? Who are they?

[Netanyahu] Some of them are well-known. They are not official members of the PLO, none of them are. They publicly speak in PLO terms to keep up appearances and protect themselves, but the moment the PLO collapses you will hear different tunes. Some of them speak in pro-Jordanian terms. I agree that at the moment they are all hiding. The fact is that they come to me in secret or in semi-secret, but it is also a fact that all of them understand that the current situation cannot go on, and many of them believe that Israel will eventually reach a conclusion from the failure of the experiment in Gaza.

[Hecht] Sir, is the basic premise of the Oslo agreement that Yasir 'Arafat is a partner and interlocutor valid as far as you are concerned? Will you talk to him?

[Netanyahu] I have nothing to talk to him about. Since the signing of the Oslo agreement 'Arafat has not proven that he has changed his ways. He has only made statements about jihad and encouraged Islamic terror; hugged Shaykh Yasin and said: We are all brothers, we are all suicides; and enabled terror squads to operate from his territory. Therefore, no significant change has occurred to alter my perception of the PLO. So, let 'Arafat stay in Gaza, let 'Arafat go to Gaza.

[Tal] What about the Syrians? Will you talk to them?

[Netanyahu] Sure.

[Tal] What about withdrawing from the Golan Heights? Do you believe there will be any kind of peace with Syria without a withdrawal from the Golan Heights or some kind of arrangement? After all, you say you will not budge or withdraw on the Golan Heights or from the Golan Heights.

[Netanyahu] I think there is no chance of sustaining a true and lasting peace with Syria if we withdraw from the Golan. I would enter negotiations with al-Asad, just as he would enter negotiations with us, and I would tell him: Are you demanding the entire Golan Heights? So am I.

[Hecht] Mr. Chairman of the Likud, are you telling voters that in the four years of your first tenure as prime minister the words territorial compromise in the Golan, cosmetic changes, or something of the sort will not cross your lips?

[Netanyahu] I am telling you exactly what I told Faruq al- Shar' in Madrid when he said contacts with us would continue only if we issue a declaration about a withdrawal on the Golan or from the Golan. I retorted: I demand the Golan, the entire Golan. His threats notwithstanding, he did not leave Madrid.

[Hecht] In other words, are you saying that this is only an opening position for negotiations?

[Netanyahu] Look, you are probably aware of the fact that Syria now thinks there is no limit to what it can demand. I believe the first thing we must do is not to declare what will be the outcome of the negotiations. I demand the entire Golan, and I believe I can reach an

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agreement with al-Asad on the basis of other issues and not just the territorial issue; he has many other interests, such as weapons and water.

[Hecht] Could we broadcast a news item reporting that Binyamin Netanyahu, the chairman of the Likud, says that in the first stage he will tell the Syrians that the entire Golan is out of the question, with the emphasis on the words first stage?

[Netanyahu] No, I told you that I demand the entire Golan.

[Hecht] In the first stage.

[Netanyahu] In the first and the in final stage I will demand the entire Golan.

[Tal] Negotiations are a matter of give and take. Where is the give here?

[Netanyahu] If al-Asad insists that the price of an agreement is opening the gates to the next war and handing over our defense positions on the Golan Heights to the Syrian Army—I will not go for such a deal. I only know one thing: I know how to stand my ground in negotiations. I resisted the pressures of the Syrians in the final hours of the Madrid conference. I did not blink and they simply retreated from their threat to blow up the negotiations.

[Hecht] Are you actually saying that some kind of territorial compromise in the Golan is inevitable, but telling the Israeli voter: In such negotiations I am better than Yitzhaq Rabin because he blinks and I do not.

[Netanyahu] No, there is a big difference. Yitzhaq Rabin once conducted such negotiations properly, the negotiations on the separation of forces agreement. I believe that we will attain peace only from a position of strength and not by weakening Israel and its positions.

[Hecht] Sir, current opinion polls mention you as the favorite candidate for the premiership. In your opinion, does what you just told us provide the public with enough information to ascertain where exactly you will be leading them? You talked about a strong Israel. With all due respect, that is not a policy but maybe just a slogan. Everything you proposed is one-sided. The Palestinians are hiding and anonymous. Is that a policy?

[Netanyahu] Of course it is a policy. I am constantly being asked what is the Likud's plan. Well, I just gave you the Likud's plan in a nutshell. But what is the government's plan? What are they planning to do in Judaea and Samaria? They will create a state there, pull our army out, introduce an army of terrorists, and put Jibril al-Rujub in charge of the entire area. If that is their policy, let them say so. Our policy is the exact opposite.

Labor, Likud React to Netanyahu's Political Plan

Rabin Calls Plan 'a Joke'

TA0402193095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 4 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin reacted this evening to Binyamin Netanyahu's political plan, saying it is not a plan but a joke. Mr. Rabin does not believe there are any Palestinians discussing Netanyahu's plan in secret with him. In his opinion, Netanyahu's assumption that Jordan will support such a plan is unfounded. Referring to Netanyahu's proposal to surround the Gaza Strip with a fence and mines, the prime minister said that it shows that the argument boils down to the quality of the fence that will surround the Gaza Strip. In any event, Rabin said, it transpires from Netanyahu's remarks that he accepts the principle that in Gaza it is the Palestinians who are in full control, including of the security issue.

Reacting to Netanyahu's assertions that he will make peace without making any concessions on the Golan, Yitzhaq Rabin said there can be no grosser lie.

Labor Ministers, Ramon React

TA0402190895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 4 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Police Minister Moshe Shahal, who chairs the internal security committee discussing Israel's separation from the Palestinians, says that Netanyahu's proposal is the most frivolous pronouncement he has made in years with regard to a solution of the conflict.

Health Minister Efrayim Sne says that the new axis mentioned by Netanyahu is imaginary and fanciful. No Palestinian leadership in the world will accept a permanent arrangement based on an urban autonomy, he says, and no Jordanian government will lend a hand to it.

Environment Minister Yosi Sarid says that Netanyahu's is an imaginary plan for decoration and camouflage purposes only. According to him, the plan is based on nonexistent Arab partners.

Energy Minister Gonen Segev says that Netanyahu's plan proves that he has embraced a policy designed to deceive the public. What Netanyahu seems to be doing is preparing the ground for the abrogation of the Oslo accords.

Histadrut chairman Hayim Ramon says that this is not a real plan but an agglomeration of bits and pieces and a result of being blinded by opinion polls. Netanyahu has invented some invisible Palestinian figures, Ramon says, and his proposal is a foolproof recipe for leaving the Israeli Army forever in the alleyways of Gaza and Nabulus.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1500 GMT on 4 February adds: "Labor Secretary Nisim Zvili says that Netanyahu is deceiving the public. He is recycling a plan the Likud tried to implement for 15 years, which led to the intifadah and to a situation which called for a complicated agreement such as the Oslo accord. Zvili told our correspondent Shmu'el Tal that the proposal to surround Gaza with a fence and mines proves that

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Netanyahu does not have the ability, talent, and experience necessary to run a country and he thinks that running a country is merely an appearance in the media."

[The report adds that "reacting to the onslaught on Binyamin Netanyahu's political plan, the Likud Knesset faction says that the leftist government is hooked on the concept of a Palestinian state led by the PLO and refuses to examine new solutions. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht notes that the Likud's reaction goes on to say that due to the policy of this government, which is prepared to give everything away to the PLO, there are currently no moderate elements in the Palestinian camp prepared to take a different position publicly and consequently contacts with other Palestinians are being held in secret."]

Likud Leaders Criticize Reported Plan

TA0502073995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 5 Feb 95

[Report by party affairs correspondent Shmu'el Tal]

[FBIS Translated Text] Following are reactions in the Likud to the political-security plan Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu presented on Qol Yisra'el yesterday: Former Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir referred to Netanyahu's statement that he is conducting talks with Palestinian notables who are not PLO members and who believe that 'Arafat cannot be trusted. Shamir said that, today, it is impossible to find a Palestinian who will accept stands such as those presented by Netanyahu regarding the autonomy, after the Israeli Government has said that it is willing to give much more. Shamir said Netanyahu was not presenting a well-designed plan but rather presented principles and goals that are not new. Shamir is not familiar with a plan to surround Gaza with fences and mines. Shamir further said that there is no intention to return to Gaza but to reenter Gaza should the need arise.

Likud Knesset Faction Chairman Moshe Qatzav said he finds the general outline of the ideas presented by Netanyahu appealing, but it is not a full-fledged plan. He said ideas have been exchanged over the past few weeks, but he, too, does not know of either a Likud political plan or a plan to surround Gaza with a fence and mines. furthermore, he does not know the identity of the Palestinians with whom Netanyahu claims to have met.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 0500 GMT on 5 February carries a recorded interview with Qatzav in which he says that "the plan is based on Jordan" because "we believe that now, the Hashemite Kingdom, trans-Jordan, should remain a very important power in the Middle East. We believe that we have a common interest to prevent establishing a Palestinian state in Judaea and Samaria, in the West Bank. We believe that a Palestinian state in Judaea and Samaria means a disaster. It is a very big danger for the Hashemite Kingdom and for the Israeli existence, too."]

It is worth mentioning that in a meeting at the Likud headquarters in Tel Aviv a few days ago and in the meeting of the leaders of the opposition parties on 2 February, Ari'el Sharon demanded that the Likud present its plans clearly and unequivocally.

David Levi, who was absent from the opposition leaders' meeting over the weekend and whom Netanyahu is currently trying to bring closer to the Likud decision-making forums, was surprised by the publication of a new political-security plan. He said that the manner in which the plan was made public has bearings on internal Likud politics. Moreover, Levi said, no Likud forum has yet endorsed such a plan.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0600 GMT on 5 February adds: "Speaking to Qol Yisra'el this morning, Knesset Member David Levi said that the attempt to get the Palestinians interested in an alternative plan is a mistake." The reports adds that "speaking from New York this morning, Likud Chairman Netanyahu said his plan is based on principles that were approved by various party forums. He again stated that he has held meetings with Palestinian notables, but refused to disclose their identity. He said he is certain he will find Palestinian negotiating partners when the Likud comes to power. They know how to adapt themselves to new situations and will settle for less than what Labor is offering them, Netanyahu stressed."]

Netanyahu Terms Peace Process 'Farce'

BR0302145395 Barcelona LA VANGUARDIA in Spanish 1 Feb 95 p 6

[Interview with Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu by Henrique Cymerman in Jerusalem; date not given: "Peace Process Begun With Palestinians in Oslo Is Heading for Painful Death"—first paragraph is LA VANGUARDIA introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] Jerusalem—"We will pursue the Palestinian terrorists wherever they are. If they are in Gaza, we will reserve for ourselves the right to act in Gaza," Likud and Israeli opposition leader Binyamin Netanyahu, the main candidate for the premiership, asserted in an exclusive interview.

[Cymerman] In the next elections in 1996, you could be appointed prime minister. How would your policy differ from the current Labor Party policy?

[Netanyahu] We all want peace, but I do not want a phony peace. We have a genuine peace with Jordan, Morocco, and Oman. We do not have that kind of peace with 'Arafat's PLO, because what is lacking is a sincere desire for peace on the part of the Palestinian entity. Therefore this process is irrelevant. Any Arab Palestinian who wants a sincere and genuine peace with Israel is a valid interlocutor.

[Cymerman] You people have explained what you reject, but what are your alternatives for the current process begun in Oslo with the PLO?

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[Netanyahu] I believe that Oslo is approaching a sad and painful death because we see that the PLO is not accepting responsibility for the Palestinian policemen in the areas under its control. Gaza has become a stronghold of Islamic terror, which the PLO indirectly and directly supports. I believe that new "Gazas" and other "Tehrans" must not be created in Judea and Samaria (the West Bank). What I would do would be to return to the model of the Madrid conference and Camp David and say: What we are going to do is to establish not a terrorist Palestinian state but a Palestinian autonomous entity where the Arabs will control most areas of daily life and Israel will control security.

[Cymerman] Following the recent fundamentalist terrorist attacks, some members of your "shadow cabinet" support reoccupying Gaza. What is your opinion?

[Netanyahu] I do not believe that we should return to Gaza, whether by retaking it by force or in any other way. However, I believe that there is no hiding place for terrorists. My policy is to pursue peace and the terrorists wherever they may be.

[Cymerman] Would you stop the dialogue with Yasir 'Arafat?

[Netanyahu] 'Arafat himself has become insignificant in this process. Mr. Rabin tells him that he must act against the fundamentalists, and what happens? Nothing. So rather than continuing these futile talks, it would be better to make clear to any interlocutor that he must carry out his part of the agreement, and unless he honors it, he will be no part of that agreement. I believe that this is what will happen with this government.

[Cymerman] Would you agree to negotiate with any Palestinian elected in the elections in Gaza and the West Bank?

[Netanyahu] Free elections are very important, because they would enable a more genuine leadership to emerge. I do not expect them to adopt my policy, but it would put them to the test. Any Arab entity, or party, or administration that accepts Israel's right to exist is a valid interlocutor, in my opinion. I must tell you that in this office where we are sitting, I have met with at least six Palestinians over the past two months who came to me and told me: " 'Arafat is a corrupt man, a failure. He will go, and we want him to know that there will be an alternative to his al-Fatah movement and the fundamentalists of Hamas. We want coexistence with Israel, neither its destruction in stages, like the PLO, nor an Islamic republic, like Hamas." I welcome that attitude.

[Cymerman] What is your opinion of the Labor Party's policy of the separation of the West Bank?

[Netanyahu] In general, I do not like the idea. That term seems to be a peace based on apartheid. If peace is wanted, the peoples must learn to live together. The contrary is neither a practical nor a moral solution. If Mr. Rabin is referring to our withdrawing to the borders of 1967, with a weak defense, we have already tried that separation in Gaza. Over 100 Israelis have been killed in the past year, compared with 27 on average in the years of the Palestinian "intifadah." 'Arafat has failed to maintain security, and instead of peace we have almost quadrupled the number of victims of terror. Israel should not withdraw from the West Bank because new "Tehrans" would be created. In Gaza, 'Arafat received the powers and passed them on to the extremist Islamic movements. 'Arafat does not control Gaza. There are thousands celebrating the suicide attacks. They bless God when they see Israeli boys blown up. These are the people now controlling Gaza.

[Cymerman] Does the Clinton administration support Rabin because it is afraid that Likud would stop the peace process?

[Netanyahu] Nobody wishes to stop the genuine peace process, but we do not wish to continue with this farce: an agreement kept by Israel and breached by the PLO. But the decision on how Israel conducts the peace process is the Israelis' alone. We are not a banana republic.

[Cymerman] Is it true that Rabin offered the whole of the Golan Heights to Syria? Can the Syrians accept less than what Likud gave Egypt, namely all the territories in return for peace?

[Netanyahu] That offer was made by Israel indirectly, through the Americans. Of course it was made. That will not bring peace. While we are in the fortified positions on the Golan Heights, if al- Asad began a war, we would be in Damascus in two hours. That is why over the past 20 years our border with Syria, with which we have no formal peace, has been more peaceful than the border with Egypt, with which we do have a peace treaty. If we withdrew from the Golan Heights, we would have a piece of paper which al-Asad could tear up at any time: It would simply open the door to a future war, not a future peace.

[Cymerman] Will you honor the pledges which have been made by the current government to Syria and the Palestinians?

[Netanyahu] We honor all international agreements, but we expect the other side to keep them. The PLO does not honor them, and so Israel and this government are not obliged to follow them blindly. With respect to Syria, the withdrawal will probably be decided on in the next election. We will respect the voters' decision.

Peres Views Meaning of Summit, Cairo's Role

TA0402140695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 4 Feb 95

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Miryam Herschlag on 4 February; place not given—recorded]

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[FBIS Transcribed Text] [Herschlag] Everyone expected the summit to end with a formal news conference with the four participants. Instead, there was a hastily read statement from the Egyptian foreign minister. Was the Cairo meeting all you hoped it would be?

[Peres] It was more than I hoped, because, first of all, it was unprecedented to have this sort of a meeting, and, secondly, until the last moment I wasn't sure that we shall be able to hammer out an agreed communique. On Wednesday, before the meeting, I went to Egypt and had a long talk with the president and the foreign minister to see if we can agree, because it's not simple. Those are four entirely different parties, and each of the parties with its own positions and pains and expectations. So, I think the fact that we were able to agree on a communique—the main lines I suggested a day before it—I think it's quite an achievement.

[Herschlag] Is there any significance to the condemnation of terrorism that was reached? PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat has already paid quite a bit of lip service to Israel's needs for security.

[Peres] Yes, the significance is that this time there were no single parties that did it, but a coalition that did it. It's a declaration of a coalition for peace and against terror, as the terror is really aimed to fight against the coalition. There are issues that we have to negotiate on a bilateral level, not in a quartet.

[Herschlag] So, you note it as an achievement that you managed to leave out of the equation issues like troop redeployment and settlement building.

[Peres] Right, right.

[Herschlag] Does that leave Yasir 'Arafat in a difficult position? He comes home from this summit with very little in his hands.

[Peres] Well, his participation in the conference is also quite a mark in the relations. Also, there were three references to the Palestinians. One was to prompt the negotiations to complete the interim agreement; the second was that all parties will mobilize most of the goodwill and confidence-building measures to achieve this agreement. Then, there was also an appointment made for the meeting between our prime minister and the chairman of the Palestinian Authority.

[Herschlag] Why was that meeting considered so important?

[Peres] Because it gave a date when the sort of the issues they wanted to deal with will be heard out; it will not be hanging there.

[Herschlag] Well, I ask this because it's only recently that Prime Minister Rabin and Chairman 'Arafat met at Erez. That meeting also ended with a statement by 'Arafat saying that he understands Israel's need for security and there doesn't seem to have been any follow-up on that. Are we not going to be exposed once again to more talk and no action?

[Peres] No, I don't think so. I think 'Arafat did something. Maybe he didn't do enough, but he has arrested seven of the heads of the Islamic Jihad organization, issued some warnings. He said that he prevented some acts of terror. Well, it's a beginning that I wouldn't like to overlook, though we need a little bit more than that.

[Herschlag] From the Israeli side, when will Israel lift the closure on the territories?

[Peres] I hope within the next week.

[Herschlag] Taking a look at the Syrian issue, President al-Asad was not at the summit but you have, of course, said you hope Damascus will join this emerging coalition for peace. Was the Syrian track discussed in the Cairo meeting? What kind of issues came up around Syria there?

[Peres] There were general discussions to evaluate the position of the Syrians. But, you see, in the summit what actually happened was that while the four leaders of the delegations were talking among them—I mean, in an informal way, without an agenda—the foreign ministers and the prime ministers sat together for five hours to work on the communique. It was there that most of the work in practice was done. It was there that we had to argue most of the issues.

Now, none of us would like to see the Syrians remaining outside the framework or outside the coalition. The difficulty is how to bring them in, because until now the Syrians did not show what would be expected from every party that wants to join in a peace conference. Namely, you begin the peace negotiation by every party arriving with its opening position. No party demands that the other party will receive its position as the final position.

The Syrians can arrive with whatever they have in mind, we can arrive with whatever we have in mind, and then we shall see it and negotiate.

[Herschlag] What about Syria continuing to shelter the Islamic Jihad leader Fathi al-Shaqaqi? Prime Minister Rabin mentioned the issue had come up with the Egyptians.

[Peres] It is a scandal; it is a scandal that Damascus is the headquarters for all the leaders of the refusal camp that also use arms, just as it is very unacceptable that Hizballah—which actually acts from Lebanon which is in many ways under the control of the Syrians—will continue also to act in a violent way.

[Herschlag] Do you think that Cairo can play a role in pressuring Syria to make a gesture—expel al-Shaqaqi—as Israel and the United States would like?

[Peres] I think Cairo wouldn't like the word pressuring. Cairo doesn't press, Cairo can lead. We shall surely

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appreciate a leading role by Egypt. We see the Egyptians as the leaders of the peace process in the Middle East.

[Herschlag] What happened to the Egyptians here? One week in Alexandria they are hosting a kind of pan-Arab assault on the peace process, and now they're back to playing peace broker.

[Peres] Well, they say it's the same line. They say that their intention at the Alexandria meeting was, too, to advance the peace process.

[Herschlag] You're going to Washington—I believe you're leaving this evening—and you'll be meeting with foreign ministers. What are the goals of this meeting?

[Peres] To translate the communique which used general terms into more pragmatic approaches and deeds.

[Herschlag] Are you going to be meeting with the Syrian ambassador to Washington? I believe he is returning as well after departing Washington for quite a few weeks.

[Peres] I don't think so. I think the ambassadors will continue to negotiate on the ambassadorial level.

[Herschlag] On the political strength of the government here at home: In just one week you have an embarrassing about-face on the capital gains tax, a senior government minister says in Washington that talks with the Palestinians should be put on hold because the public is too scared over terrorism, and your potential coalition partner, the SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] party, finally gets off the fence like you asked it to, only it goes on to the wrong side. All these have not enhanced the government's public image. How can you go on implementing your policies when all the polls say you don't have popular support?

[Peres] I don't suggest that we shall adapt our policies to the images. In order to implement policies which are new or difficult or dividing you have to be ready to go through corridors of disagreements and corridors of disappointment and corridors of unpopularity. In my judgment, a test of a policy and a test of a government is its capacity to negotiate difficulties and not just to be applauded because it does nothing.

'Very Senior Official' Reports on Cairo Summit

TA0502121695 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 5 Feb 95 p 1, 2

[Report by David Makovsky]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Behind the scenes of the unprecedented four-way Cairo summit Thursday night, there was tension between Israeli and Palestinian officials, and their counterparts from Egypt and Jordan sometimes sided with Israel and sometimes with Palestinians.

But there was unanimity about one point: the threat of attacks by Islamic extremists.

According to a very senior official who briefed reporters last night on the session, at one stage during the meeting, Rabin said: "We are the targets of these Islamic radical attacks." 'Arafat jumped in and said, "Me too. They have threatened my life."

'Arafat noted that he was threatened by Damascus-based Islamic Jihad leader Fathi al-Shaqaqi. At that point, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and Jordan's King Husayn both nodded their heads, each saying they had been personally threatened by Islamic radicals.

The idea of the summit was a joint American, Israeli and Egyptian initiative. Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres discussed the idea with Egypt's Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa. Musa bounced the idea off Mubarak, who phoned Rabin to confirm early last week.

Peres held preparatory talks with Mubarak before the summit to ensure that the summit would not deteriorate into the public fiasco of last May, when the whole world saw an argument between Rabin and 'Arafat broadcast live at a signing ceremony over the PLO leader signing the maps of Jericho.

According to Israeli officials, Mubarak and Peres agreed to keep the themes general: support for the peace process, condemnation of terror, and regional economic cooperation. In an adjoining room, Foreign Ministry Director-General Uri Savir and top Egyptian aide Nabil Fahmi drafted the joint communique along these lines, which served as virtually the entire end product.

Israel had received a fax of the communique the night before the summit, and noticed one change. The communique said that all four parties endorsed Mubarak's 1991 arms control initiative, which calls for all parties in the Middle East to sign the Nuclear Non- Proliferation Treaty (NPT). This question stands at the center of Egypt-Israel strain over the last few months.

A meeting was held at the Defense Ministry on Thursday morning just before Rabin flew to Cairo, and it was decided that Israel could not accept the Egyptian language.

Before Rabin landed in Cairo that afternoon, 'Arafat had already arrived and met with Mubarak, where he complained about the impasse in the peace process.

Sources say 'Arafat wanted Mubarak to use leverage with Rabin to attain a lifting of the closure, release of prisoners, and IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment. However, Rabin insisted that if this was the case, the four-way meeting would deteriorate. It was decided that two meetings would occur simultaneously that night after the Iftar sundown feast, when the Ramadan fast is broken. The four leaders would discuss issues, while their aides would hammer out the joint communique, and a news conference would cap the summit.

However, in both meetings, there was Israeli-Palestinian tension. As the senior Israeli official recalled, Rabin

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turned to Mubarak and Husayn and asked: "Is it possible to have an entity, when the authorities do not have a monopoly on the use of force to ensure order? If the (PA) [Palestinian Authority] doesn't (have a monopoly), it will become Lebanon."

At this point, 'Arafat chimed in, pointing at Rabin: "(Individual) Israelis are selling weapons to Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. I can give you addresses where this happens." According to the Israeli official, at this point, Mubarak and Husayn looked at each other askance.

Rabin: "Please do."

'Arafat: "They (Islamic rejectionists) have more weapons than I do."

Rabin: "If so, there is no way you can control them."

At this point, Mubarak and Husayn interrupted, switching from English to Arabic, as they talked to 'Arafat. Rabin, who cannot understand Arabic, saw this as a joint effort by both leaders to have 'Arafat change his tone.

However, Rabin continued on the subject of terror, and found support from Mubarak.

Rabin: "After Bet Lid, you arrested seven members of the Islamic Jihad. We arrested 200. We arrested 1,350" after the Dizengoff bombing in October.

'Arafat: "We have arrested others in the past, but they were acquitted."

At this point, Rabin said he had been told that some Palestinians were acquitted for other offenses because they intimidated the judge. He demanded that 'Arafat no longer rebuff extradition requests for four Palestinians who killed Israelis after the May 4 Cairo Agreement.

Mubarak to 'Arafat: "We found people who were trying to smuggle explosives in underground tunnels" and they were "sentenced to 25 years in prison."

However, when the topic changed to why Syria's Hafiz al-Asad was giving cover to al-Shaqaqi, it was Rabin and 'Arafat who were jointly indignant. At this point, Mubarak came to al-Asad's defense, suggesting the Syrian leader may not be aware of all the group's activities.

The Israeli-Palestinian tension was equally tough in a separate meeting on the final communique. Musa began by insisting the Egyptian-Israeli draft worked out the day before was actually an Israeli draft. This did not engender Israeli love towards Musa. In fact, the very senior Israeli official later went so far as to call Musa "the bad spirit" who is behind much of recent Israel-Egyptian tension.

Sources say 'Arafat aides Nabil Sha'th and Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh insisted that the commuffique include the following: a freeze on settlements, a lifting of the closure and "prompt implementation" of the next phase of peace including IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment.

Peres, who participants said was in a "fighting spirit," objected. He insisted that all Israeli-Palestinian issues be negotiated outside of Cairo, except for the issue of settlements which he indicated was outside the purview of the Oslo accords and could only be dealt with by Israel unilaterally.

At the peak of the tension, Peres told top Mubarak aide Usamah al-Baz that unless Mubarak agrees to delete these issues, the summit will end in a "fiasco."

The four leaders then decided to drop the news conference idea and instead the joint communique was read to reporters outside by Musa.

Rabin To Propose Elections in Territories 'at Once'

TA0402191795 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 4 Feb 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Elections in the territories at once—this is what Rabin will propose to 'Arafat in their meeting at the Erez checkpoint this coming Thursday. Our political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen reports that according to the plan the elections would be overseen by 1,000 foreign observers and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] would leave the center of Arab towns for three days and remain barricaded in their bases.

Peres on Direct Election of Prime Minister, Primaries

TA0402175595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 4 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has said that the direct election of the prime minister must be postponed, at least until after the current government has completed another term in office. Peres believes this is a bad system and if Knesset members were free to vote as they please they would reject it.

Our party affairs correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports that in a meeting with Labor activists in Tel Aviv, Minister Peres proposed to examine ways to amend the system of primaries and said this was a bad system which had led the Labor party to chaos. According to him, he would not object if Knesset members were elected by the party convention, since this would obviate the need for them to be obsequious to the media and make irresponsible declarations.

Several activists called on Peres to resume his political activities in the party's leadership, and he replied that he had been elected to the second place in the party's leadership and that if asked to he would help the prime minister out.

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Peres To Stay Out of U.S. Argument Over Embassy

TA0602091295 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 6 Feb 95 p 2

[Report by Hillel Kuttler in Washington]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, who arrived in the U.S. yesterday, will stay out of a potential controversy between the Clinton administration and members of Congress over moving the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, a senior Foreign Ministry official said.

"This issue of the embassy is an American decision, and we do not want to interfere. The foreign minister will stay out of this. Our position that Jerusalem is our capital is well known," he said. Peres said here yesterday that Israel's own position on Jerusalem is well-known and did not bear repeating.

Asked about the developments, Peres said: "I myself won't go into American politics, but clearly nothing will affect our own position: Jerusalem was, is and will be the capital of Israel."

New York's two senators are seeking congressional support for the idea of moving the U.S. Embassy. [passage omitted]

Gur Comments on Attack Near Gaza, Palestinian Police

TA0602124395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 6 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] While he would not comment on specific action Israel might take after the latest terrorist attack, Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Gur told David Appel what Israel now expected from the Palestinian security forces.

[Begin recording] [Gur] I believe at this time it's very easy to explain what they should do, because no doubt they know that the terrorists stayed inside the area of the Gaza Strip. They know that somehow and somewhere they are being covered by the public. What 'Arafat has to do with his people is to explain in his own way to the general public that they cannot accept such behavior, because if Israelis will stop to come to Gaza, to stop to import basic things to Gaza, what will happen to them. And that, above and beyond the peace process. So, I believe in this very specific example he has all the elements necessary to take all the necessary steps to put an end to it.

[Appel] And if he doesn't, sir, would Israel exercise her right to hot pursuit after the terrorists in the Gaza Strip?

[Gur] You don't expect me to tell you what we will do or not do, but no doubt if he will not take the necessary steps we shall look at it in a very severe way and we shall have to reassess our own behavior.

[Appel] Mr. Gur, it has been suggested by Palestinian sources this morning that this particular attack was intended to foil the meeting planned on Thursday between Yitzhaq Rabin and Yasir 'Arafat. Is any evidence that you have suggesting this is the case?

[Gur] I have been fighting terrorism for almost 50 years, and I can tell that it was not that every week there was a meeting between Rabin and 'Arafat. One has to understand that we have to deal here with terrorists that are not looking for excuses. They just don't want the State of Israel to exist. They just don't want to hear about any peaceful coexistence with us. This is the fight, and it's not a matter for looking for any kind of speculation what might be the reason. The reason is the existence of Israel and the peace process which means coexistence with Israel. This is what they are fighting. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1200 GMT on 6 January quotes Gur as saying that the attack "sabotages the peace process and the chances to advance it. It is a clear slap in the face to 'Arafat and to the process. Gur said that responsibility for what happened lies with 'Arafat because he does not use intelligence information to prevent such incidents. The defense minister added that it is inconceivable that Israel should pull out of major towns in the West Bank and forsake them to the lawlessness we witnessed this morning. Israel should take measures not to be dependent on Palestinian labor, he asserted."]

Sources Confirm PA Foiled Several 'Terror' Attacks

TA0402202395 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 4 Feb 95

[Studio report by political correspondent Gadi Sukenik]

[FBIS Translated Text] Less than an hour ago the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] reopened the roadblocks on the outskirts of Jericho, which had been closed since early this morning. Our correspondent in the territories Yoram Kohen reports that the closure was imposed due to security activities conducted by the Palestinian police in Jericho today.

The Palestinian police foiled a large terror attack, apparently at the Allenby Bridge. Jibril al-Rujub, head of the Palestinian security service, denied that Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] members fleeing the Israeli security forces had infiltrated into Jericho. In any event, Jericho remained closed for many hours and drivers waited a long time on both sides of the roadblocks. Clashes occurred on the site with Israeli soldiers.

Israeli sources have confirmed that the Palestinian Authority [PA] has recently foiled serious terror attacks. As far as is known, reference is to three or four attacks, including another suicide attempt. Most senior sources say that 'Arafat could nevertheless do much more but he

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is afraid of a confrontation with Hamas and Islamic Jihad. Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik has the details:

[Sukenik] Following a briefing with a high-level political source a few minutes ago, there is Israeli confirmation of the report originating in Jericho that the Palestinian police have foiled an attack in Israel, possibly a serious one. The full details will probably be publicized in the next few hours.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 2000 GMT on 4 February reports that the Palestinian police "caught a car bomb slated to be blown up in Israel." The news item goes on to say that "Israeli military sources and members of Jibril al-Rujub's security service denied the report."]

It has also been confirmed that the Palestinian police foiled several attacks recently, as 'Arafat claimed. Although 'Arafat does not do enough, Israeli sources say that the dialogue concerning terror and the continued implementation of the agreements will continue at the Erez checkpoint this coming Thursday. The sources said: We have not despaired, but terror inside Israel must end before we pursue the implementation of the agreements.

It transpired this evening that at the quadripartite summit in Cairo two days ago Rabin lashed out at 'Arafat on this issue. He told him: What do you mean that you arrested seven Islamic Jihad leaders after the Bet Lid bombing? We did not arrest just seven but more than 200 people in the territories following that attack. Rabin asked him: Why have all the people you have brought to trial to date been acquitted? He once again urged 'Arafat to extradite four men who murdered Jews after May 1994, when the Gaza-Jericho agreement was signed. He also demanded to get the list of all the Palestinian policemen, which has not yet been given to Israel. We will not issue weapons to anybody who has not been registered or checked by us, Rabin told 'Arafat.

'Arafat wriggled quite a bit in his chair in the presence of Mubarak and Husayn. He argued that Hamas and Islamic Jihad have more weapons than his men. You, Israelis, are keeping me from getting weapons but you supply them to Hamas, he said. Mubarak and Husayn stared at each other, and Rabin retorted: If this is what you think about us, you cannot rule because your rivals have more weapons than you. At that point 'Arafat changed his pitch.

'Arafat then complained that the Israeli media serves the interests of Hamas and Islamic Jihad. He cited a demonstration of mothers, which included the mother of the Bet Lid suicide terrorist. She went to the house of his sender, Islamic Jihad leader Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Shami, and told him that he should have sent his own son rather than sending hers and complained that her son had been forced to commit suicide. The Israeli media reported that the mothers had staged a demonstration of support, 'Arafat said, while a rally of a few thousand peace opponents was said to have been attended by 50.000 people. Incidentally, our Shin Bet confirms 'Arafat's allegations that reports in the Israeli media about mass support for the suicide operators are not entirely correct.

Finally, at the end of the Cairo summit, Rabin proposed to 'Arafat to read the communique in a joint appearance, but the other participants balked because they feared a flare-up would occur if 'Arafat presented his position and forced Rabin to respond, which would not look good on television.

These are the details as they were disclosed a few minutes ago.

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Reportage on Israeli Knesset Delegation Visit

Paper Notes Mixed Reaction to Visit

JN0502113695 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 5 Feb 95 pp 1, 13

[Report by 'Umar Kallab]

[FBIS Translated Text] Parliamentary sources have expressed their desire to meet with the Israeli Knesset delegation, which will visit Amman today at the invitation of His Majesty King Husayn, and brief it on the deputies' view of peace.

On the other hand, more than one parliamentary source has said that this visit is personal and has no parliamentary character and that, therefore, there is no need for a joint parliamentary meeting.

Deputy 'Abd-al-Hadi al-Majali, deputy speaker of the House of Representatives, told AL-ASWAQ: It is an ordinary visit. There is no objection to meeting with the Knesset delegation to brief it on the reality of the deputies' stand on the peace process. Although the deputies ratified the [Jordanian-Israeli] peace treaty, they still have many reservations concerning the latest Israeli measures such as settlement activity and the Judaization of Jerusalem.

He said that a message will be conveyed to them explaining the Jordanian deputies' view of a just and comprehensive peace which can be realized through full Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab lands.

Deputy al-Majali dismissed the suggestion that this visit falls within the framework of normalization with Israel. He pointed out that the treaty was ratified inside the House and that there are political meetings between officials from both sides and that this visit has the same meaning.

In another development, a responsible parliamentary source has said that the itinerary of the one-day visit of the Knesset delegation does not include a visit to Parliament.

The source added that 20 deputies and 10 senators will be invited to an iftar banquet His Majesty King Husayn will hold for the guests. He said that during the banquet the two sides will exchange views and that a parliamentary meeting could be held with the Knesset delegation outside the Parliament.

More than one deputy, primarily the Islamic Action Front [IAF] deputies and leftist deputies, have rejected the idea of holding a meeting with the Israeli Knesset delegation.

The IAF issued a statement in which it called on the speaker of the House of Representatives not to receive the delegation and not to allow it to enter Parliament. It called on other deputies to refrain from receiving the delegation or holding talks with it.

Knesset Delegation Arrives

JN0502191195 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 5 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A delegation from the Israeli Knesset, led by Professor (Shevah Weiss), arrived in Amman this evening. During the visit, the delegation will meet with His Majesty King Husayn and listen to a lecture from His Royal Highness Prince Hasan on the developments in the peace process and the peace talks between Jordan and Israel. The lecture will also highlight efforts to implement the peace treaty and the necessary steps to consolidate the state of peace and utilize it to promote stability in the region and to achieve a just and comprehensive peace.

The delegation is comprised of 29 members, including the two deputies of the Knesset speaker and the heads of a number of movements and committees.

King Husayn, Crown Prince Meet Delegation

JN0502213095 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 5 Feb 95

[From the "News at Ten" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] His majesty the king today met with an Israeli parliamentary delegation which flew on a visit to Jordan in the afternoon. The delegation includes 30 legislators representing political blocs and committees in the Israelis Knesset. The delegation is led by Knesset Speaker Shevah Weiss.

Earlier, the Israeli delegation met with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan. In a speech at the meeting, the crown prince explained Jordan's position with respect to the establishment of a comprehensive peace in the region. His highness also spoke about steps made so far towards implementing the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty. His highness stressed the need to move from the stage of peace-making to peace-building. The crown prince also spoke about Jordan's stance regarding the joint development process in the region.

[Begin Hasan recording] There are three stages of this dialogue that can be admitted in the development of a relationship of peaceful cohabitation. In the first stage, there will be the process of getting to know one another through meetings, exchange of information, and personal contacts. In the second stage will be the delimitation of the areas and priorities for joint activities and the formation of committees to arm the bodies charged with the responsibility of preparing the ground for the third stage, which will consist of joint activities in the areas agreed upon. If I can turn to the institutions for peace. Let me cite some of them. I think we need a new vocabulary when we speak to each other, when we look at these abbreviations: the Amman economic summit. External factors must be dealt with to translate such joint agreements into a reality. In many instances, external financing for bilateral and regional projects will be

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required. The private sector also has a key role to play. A number of institutions are currently being involved, such as regional economic summits and the Amman summit planned for October of this year. [end recording]

More on Remarks by Crown Prince

JN0602093295 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 6 Feb 95 pp 1, 7

[By a JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—A delegation from the Israeli parliament (Knesset), representing all Israeli political parties, paid a visit to Jordan on Sunday as part of ongoing efforts to develop bilateral relations after the two countries signed a peace treaty in October.

The lawmakers, who were flown to Amman by a Royal Jordanian plane from Tel Aviv, were received by His Majesty King Husayn at the al- Hashimiyah Palace.

The meeting was attended by Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin- Shakir, Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad al-Lawzi, Lower House of Parliament Speaker Sa'd Hayil al-Surur, His Royal Highness Prince Talal Bin-Muhammad, Royal Court Chief Marwan al-Qasim, several members of the cabinet and parliament, and senior officials.

The Israeli delegation was headed by Knesset Speaker Shevah Weiss of the Labour Party. Jordan Television said the team had 30 members, but international agencies said they were 28.

Before the King received the visitors, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan addressed the group, reaffirming Jordan's commitment to peace.

The Crown Prince outlined the efforts undertaken by the Kingdom to live up to the letter and spirit of the peace treaty and called for Jordanian-Israeli dialogue on all levels and in all spheres to develop cooperation.

The Crown Prince called for Jordanian-Israeli relations based on "peaceful cohabitation" in three stages; "getting to know one another, through meetings, exchange of information, personal contacts; the delimitation of the areas and the priorities for joint action and the formation of committees or other bodies charged with the responsibility of preparing the ground for the third stage, which will consist of joint activities in the areas agreed upon."

"The successful transition from peace-making to peace-building requires statesmanship and joint effort," the Crown Prince said. "Our... ability to deliver durable peace and prosperity to future generations is till dependent on our willingness for compromise and sacrifice."

The crown Prince cautioned against "the emergence of an apologetic tone for peace."

"It has been said that the benefit of peace will unfold at a slower pace than its supporters or opponents had hoped or feared," he said. "Even if this might be true, no apology should be made for peace. Energies must be devoted to accelerate that transition from peace-making to peace-building."

The Crown Prince noted that Jordanian and Israeli negotiators were working on detailed agreements on cooperation in various sectors and emphasised that such accords were "essential for translating the spirit of the treaty of peace between our countries into a concrete and warm reality between our peoples."

The Crown Prince said Jordan and Israel should seek to promote security and cooperation at the bilateral level on the basis of the regional dimension. "In today's globalised world, no nation or group of nations can achieve prosperity and security in isolation from their neighbours," he pointed out.

Noting that the Jordan-Israeli peace treaty outlines mechanisms to develop a "partnership for peace" through dialogue and cooperation, the Crown Prince underlined that "Jordan is not wasting any time in translating these visions into concrete reality" through regional and international contacts.

The Crown Prince called for "dialogue between the two peoples at all levels, public and private, between institutions, governmental, and non-governmental, and between individuals."

"It should involve parliamentarians, political parties, religious bodies, cultural activities, educationalists, intellectuals, welfare associations, (and) economic and commercial enterprises," he said.

The Crown Prince cited regional economic summits, including the economic conference to be held in Amman in October. The proposed Middle East regional development bank and organisation for economic cooperation and development in the Middle East, the regional working group on the multilateral phase of the peace process, European Union-Mediterranean partnership, the Jordan Rift Valley development plan and free trade areas between Jordan and Israel as the key institutions that are being evolved to support the implementation of joint agreements. [sentence as published]

Underlining that Jordan's foreign debts represented 150 per cent of its gross domestic product was impeding the Kingdom's ability to shoulder its "functional role," the Crown Prince also noted that the World Bank had stressed the "need for a cooperative strategy among Jordan's main creditors to provide debt reduction and enhanced grants."

"Decisive and timely action by the world community is strongly recommended by the World Bank," said the Crown Prince.

The Crown Prince expressed hope that the visit of the members of Knesset to Jordan would help them "to an

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understanding not only of the constitutional and procedural workings of the Jordanian parliamentary system, but also of the political, social and economic factors which determine the ways in which the system works."

"This exchange of information, and the beginning of what we would hope will be an increasing contact between the two parliamentary institutions which are the core of the democratic system in both our countries, is an important first step in the direction of what I hope you will agree should be our common aim: to lay the foundation of a genuine peace between our peoples," he said.

In a reply speech, Speaker Weiss thanked the king and the Crown Prince for the invitation to the Knesset members to visit Jordan and said the ideas expressed by the Crown Prince in his speech were realistic in view of the actual situation on the ground.

Noting that the legislators' visit came after the Knesset ratified the peace treaty with Jordan with an absolute majority this week, Mr. Weiss said: "We overcame a lot of obstacles.

"As Knesset members we have influence on the decision-makers in Israel since we represent the Jewish, Arab and Druze (political powers)," he said.

Mr. Weiss expressed admiration of King Husayn's courage and efforts to bridge the gaps between the peoples of the two countries.

The delegation left Amman late Sunday [5 February].

Writer Queries Deputies' 'Disapproval'

JN0602103295 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 6 Feb 95 p 20

["Frankly Speaking" column by Sultan al-Hattab: "Israeli Knesset Members in Amman"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Some deputies have told me that they were surprised that some Israeli Knesset members were invited to visit Amman and that they had no prior knowledge of this. The day before yesterday, I was discussing with some deputies the way to deal with the situation if the invited Israelis asked to visit the Parliament. I must admit that I heard some speak in a manner lacking in seriousness and sense of responsibility. The question is not whether to meet with the Israelis or not; it is rather how to deal with this situation. I asked these deputies whether they had any opinions on the issues of conflict and whether they wish to defend these issues, especially since the conflict now after the conclusion of the Jordanian-Israeli treaty has assumed a different shape. I also asked whether these issues are so substantive and important that they can transcend the state of disapproval or so-called normalization. I also asked: Why do the deputies leave the government and official quarters to shoulder alone the responsibility of raising important national issues at a time when the deputies represent an authority that participates in the decision-making process—an authority the majority of whose members approved the treaty and all its members adhered to it after it became law?

I understand and appreciate the protest of the Islamic movement and the those who reject the peace process. However, I do not understand the disapproval of others who voted for and supported the treaty. Had I been a member in the parliament, I would not have hesitated a single moment to meet with the Israeli deputies who arrived in Amman and no one could have prevented me from stating my viewpoint, which supposedly reflects the positions of my presumed voters, on the issues I advocate. I would have also called on the Knesset members, who represent various political movements, to seriously pressure their government into making a comprehensive and just peace that guarantees full withdrawal from all the occupied Arab lands, including East Jerusalem—peace that enables the Palestinian people to exercise self-determination on their homeland.

Now that they have arrived here, I believe that the Israelis should listen to viewpoints other than those of government officials. They must learn that while we receive them in our country, we maintain our own positions, demands, and opinions that may not be quite identical with the official positions. They should also learn that their trip should not be a touristic or easy one in which they find no one to place demands before them in a different manner, whether they like it or not.

What I call for should not be understood as a call for normalization. Even if it was understood as such, there are other things that are far more important than formalities which are used as a pretext by some people to exempt themselves from fulfilling their duties and obligations. I maintain that we should not continue to address the Israelis only through the mass media and from behind a screen, especially since we have a chance to meet with Knesset members from various blocs. We find among them some members who support Palestinian and Arab rights more than some Arabs and even Palestinians do. Therefore, I can understand some of the pretexts but I cannot understand most of them.

Israel Urged To Translate Summit Statement Into Reality

JN0402113195 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 4 Feb 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Milestones on Road to Full Peace"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The summit that brought together His Majesty King Husayn, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, Palestinian Leader Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in Cairo over the weekend was a milestone in the process of peace building in the Middle East.

The messages that emerged from the unprecedented meeting are highly significant for the peace negotiations

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and the vested interests of all four parties, that all have high stakes in seeing the process leading to comprehensive peace. We agree with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres' characterisation of the summit as a "peace coalition," but only if it meant that Israel, like Jordan, Egypt and the Palestine National Authority, is determined to work for the attainment of a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the region.

But the gathering was not, and cannot be seen, as a new exclusive regional alliance opposed to other key players in the region and the peace process, for whose success Israel holds all the major cards. The significance of the summit stems not only from its convening. Its importance also lies in the final communique in which the four leaders reasserted their determination to work for the attainment of comprehensive peace in the area, implement agreements already reached and stressed the need to solve the problems facing the Palestinian track, among other significant pronouncements.

The three Arab leaders who attended the meeting have always recognised the urgency of realising these goals as well as making the Middle East an area free of weapons of mass destruction, releasing the potential of the region from the constraints of conflict and working to make the Middle East a better place in which to live. It is Israel which has been the obstacle in achieving these goals. And it is Israel which has to make the extra effort to translate the final communique of the Cairo summit into a reality that would only help remove the shadow of war and suffering from the peoples of the area.

The summit should have given the Israelis a taste of the constructive state of affairs in which the Middle East can live in. Even before Israel has fulfilled all its obligations under the various treaties it has signed with the countries involved in the Cairo summit, the Arab leaders were willing to receive Mr. Rabin and sit and talk with him in an effort to spread peace all over the region. This scatters the long held Israeli myth that Arab enmity was ideological. If anything, the summit should have the Israelis realise that their policies over the last four decades have been the cause of conflict between Arabs and Jews. But if the Israelis move towards reconciliation on the bases of achieving justice for all, Arabs would be more than willing to reciprocate.

Israel should start acting to prove that it seriously and genuinely wants peace; a peace that is predicated on justice and fairness, not on a balance of power in its favour. An urged and immediate action should be launched on the Palestinian track. The Jewish state has left much to be desired in terms of its commitment to the Cairo and Oslo deals. The Cairo summit and the positive messages it sent should produce a complete reassessment of Israel's policy on the deals it signed with the Palestinians. That should lead to implementing them fully, and without delay.

But that on its own will not bring the comprehensive peace that the region needs. The Syrian track must witness faster movement. And so must the Lebanese one lead to a just solution on the basis of U.N. resolutions and international legitimacy. When that happens, summits of the leaders of the area would not be the event that the media would receive with such fanfare simply because it is the exception. It will be the normal state of affairs in a region that realises that it must work together if it is to build a better future.

Direct Postal Services With Israel To Start 'Today'

JN0602113695 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 6 Feb 95 p 3

[By a JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—Jordan and Israel launch direct postal services between them today [6 February], three months after they signed a peace treaty that normalised relations and opened the door for close cooperation.

Jordan and Israel opened direct phone services on Aug. 8, two weeks after the two countries signed the Washington Declaration, which accelerated their peace negotiations and culminated in the October peace treaty.

The postal services will include letters as well as parcels, but will be limited to air mail through Cyprus in the initial phase, said Sa'di al-'Ukur, a senior official of the Post and Communications Ministry.

"There will be no overland mail in the first phase as agreed upon by the two sides," Mr. al-'Ukur told the Jordan Times. "All mail will be flown to Cyprus from where it will be sent to Israel and Jordan."

Jordan and Israel have not reached a civil aviation agreement yet. Once such an accord is reached, mail will be flown directly to each other.

Mithqal Abu-Hayzah, director of postal services, said postal charges for airmail to Israel would be 240 fils for the first 10 grammes and 120 fils per every extra 10 grammes or part there-of. Different tariffs will apply for parcels.

For the moment, Jordanian mail to the occupied West Bank and the Palestinian autonomous territory of Gaza and Jericho will also be routed through Israel.

As such, the Jordan-Israel service is expected to be dominated by mail between Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and Jordan rather than Israel and the Kingdom.

Mr. Abu-Hayzah said he expected mail to take at least two days to reach destinations in Israel and Jordan.

Mr. Abu-Hayzah noted that direct postal services between Jordan and the Palestinian territories could become operative after the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) in Gaza and Jericho establishes its own postal authorities.

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Agreements signed between Jordan and the PNA last month call for direct postal services between the Kingdom and the Palestinian territories, but the accord will be effective on a date to be agreed upon by the two parties—meaning when the PNA sets up the relevant facilities on its side to receive and dispatch mail.

Jordan and the Palestinian territories would use the King Husayn Bridge across the River Jordan for the postal services.

As and when the Kingdom and Israel reach an agreement on overland transfer of mail, the Jordan Valley Bridge (old Shaykh Husayn Bridge) in the north is expected to be used. That access constitutes a crossing between the territories of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the State of Israel.

The King Husayn Bridge is seen as a crossing between Jordanian and Palestinian territories.

The "mumtaz" (express courier) service, which Jordan operates to dozens of countries, will not be applicable to Israel at this point, Mr. al-'Ukur said.

"We need to have special agreements between the two sides for the mumtaz mail," he said.

Under the Jordan-PNA accord on cooperation in postal and communications services signed on Jan. 26, Jordan will be the focal point for receiving from and dispatching mail to the occupied territories.

The PNA will use the Queen Alia International Airport and the Royal Jordanian airlinie for mail originating in and destined to the autonomious territories.

Progress Noted on Aviation, Trade Accords With Israel

JN0602115795 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 6 Feb 95, pp 1, 7

[Report by JORDAN TIMES staff reporter P.V. Vivekanand]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jordan and Israel made progress in working out a trade agreement during a meeting last week and will resume negotiations next week on remaining differences in approach to goods to be given preferential treatment, official sources said Sunday [5 February].

The two sides meanwhile advanced towards cooperation in civil aviation after Israel agreed to accept some of the Jordanian demands related to "air corridors and routes' through Israeli airspace, the chief executive of Royal Jordanian (RJ), the national carrier, said.

The sources said that Jordanian and Israeli trade negotiators met in Dayr 'Alla on the Jordanian side of the Jordan Valley on Thursday to discuss a draft trade accord. "They made some progress and agreed to resume discussions on Feb, 13," said one source.

The source, who preferred anonymity, stressed that "both sides remain committed to the basic concepts" of the proposed trade agreement as called for in the Jordan-Israel peace treaty signed on Oct. 26, but had not yet bridged some gaps, particularly in the areas of preferential trade.

"There are some problems and difficulties, but they are only natural when two sides are negotiating for favourable terms," said the source without elaboration, but adding: "We are hopeful that an accord could be concluded soon."

According to Jordanian officials, the Kingdom feels that Jordanian products should enjoy preferential treatment in Israel above a level that Israel goods will have in Jordan, given the enormous economic disparity between the Israeli and Jordanian economies and taxation and customs tariff structures.

But the Israeli side is holding out, arguing that meeting the Jordanian demands would mean an elimination of any incentive for the Kingdom to eventually sign a free trade accord with Israel.

"It is pure business, and both sides are negotiating intensely to protect own intensely to protect own interests," said another official. "One should not read anything more than that into the negotiations and the differences."

Meanwhile, Nadir al-Dhahabi, chief executive officer of Royal Jordanian, was quoted as saying by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that RJ and Israel's El Al airlines had reached an agreement on joint packages to fly tourists to Jordan and Israel.

Quoted by Petra, Mr. al-Dhahabi said a committee made up of representatives from the civil Aviation Authority (CAA), the Royal Jordanian Air Force and RJ were studying the draft agreements, particularly in relation to altitudes that Israel is ready to offer flights to and from Jordan through Israeli airspace.

Mr. al-Dhahabi confirmed that the main difference was over the altitude. While Jordan sought "Free ascent and descent rights," without any restrictions, Israel originally wanted a ceiling of 11,000 feet.

In subsequent negotiations, Israel, which says that flights over 11,000 feet would interfere with its military training flights, agreed not to impose the ceiling restrictions at certain times during some days of the week. But Jordan was seeking fully-free overflight rights.

"We hope that we will be able to conclude an agreement soon," Mr. al-Dhahabi told Petra.

Low-level flights through Israeli airspace on its European flights would automatically eliminate the fuel saving the airline would have by flying across Israel to get to the Mediterranean. Hence, RJ stands to gain little by agreeing to the Israeli conditions, aviation experts say.

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The RJ-El Al commercial agreement on tourists, which in essence also hinges on the broader accord being negotiated on civil aviation, provides for tourists from the U.S. to be flown to Amman or al-'Aqabah (in the case of RJ) and to Tel Aviv or any other Israeli airport (in the case of El Al) and fly them out in the reverse order.

The essence of the agreement is that if RJ brings in a group of tourists to Amman-al-'Aqabah, El Al will fly them out from Israel after they spend equal time in Jordan and Israel.

Al-Kabariti Views Tripartite Meeting on 'Displaced'

JN0502091595 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 5 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The tripartite committee on the displaced, which includes the foreign ministers of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the Arab Republic of Egypt, and Palestine, concluded its work in Cairo last night. It issued a political statement on the meeting. [passage omitted]

Following the final session of the meeting, Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti said: Jordan highly regards any Arab meeting and hopes to see more coordinative Arab meetings so long as these meetings aim to realize and adhere to pan-Arab interests in a quiet and objective way. These meetings should not be viewed as axes against other sides. Rather, they are directly in line with the pan-Arab interest to achieve Arab goals which we all seek to achieve.

Answering a question, al-Kabariti said: Jordan believes that in order for us to rehabilitate our region and restore its prestige and respect, we should work with courage, sincerity, and confidence to proceed from the stage of mere reaction to that of planning.

He said that today's [4 February] meeting falls within this framework.

He added: We hope that in the quadrilateral meeting in Amman at the end of this month we will be able to make tangible progress as regards the issue of the right to repatriation of the displaced.

Answering another question, al-Kabariti said: Jordan, in its capacity as president of the current session of the Arab League, feels that it shoulders an added responsibility toward joint Arab action. Jordan's diplomatic endeavors fall within this context.

Al-Kabarait stressed that Jordan's drive toward its Arab brethren will continue and that Jordan will not accept any fragmentation of the concept of the pan-Arab security. He said: We view our rights in the three Arab islands of the United Arab Emirates in the same degree we view as sacred our rights in every bit of Arab land occupied by Israel. This is our concept of the comprehensive pan-Arab security on the basis of which we are working.

Comments on NPT, Palestinian Confederation

JN0502180695 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1520 GMT 5 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 5 Feb (Petra)—Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti has said that there are several formulas for Arab reconciliation. There is no one formula monopolized by any party, he said, adding that reconciliation depends on several factors that are determined by present realities and future requirements.

In an exclusive statement to a correspondent for the Jordanian News Agency in Cairo, al-Kabariti said the important question is how reconciliation and openness can continue to reach ideas and build confidence. [passage omitted]

On Jordan's stand toward the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty [NPT], al-Kabariti said: Jordan's position on this issue is very clear. This position has been expressed through the United Nations and its permanent committees. Jordan has also managed to have the issue of creating a zone free of conventional and nonconventional weapons of mass destruction included in the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty. We reject violence, threats, and attempts at hegemony, and we reject the existence of nuclear threats and terrorism against pan-Arab security, whether the source of this threat is Israel or any other party, he said. [passage omitted]

On a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation, the foreign minister said: We in Jordan are advocates of unity. If we can not achieve unity, then we call for integration and solidarity. Regarding a confederation, the issue depends on the desire of the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples, ending the Israeli occupation, achieving the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, and resolving the problem of the refugees and displaced once and for all. [passage omitted].

Official Confirms Jordan's al-Kabariti To Visit Gaza

JN0502201095 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1830 GMT 5 Feb 95

[Report by 'Urayb al-Rantawi in Amman]

[FBIS Translated Text] Well-informed Jordanian sources have told our radio that Jordanian Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti will pay a visit to the Gaza Strip in the near future in the first step of its kind by a high-level Jordanian official. The visit comes in the wake of the Jordanian-Palestinian general agreement on cooperation and coordination concluded during President Yasir 'Arafat's latest visit to Amman.

Ahmad al-Mubayyidin, the Jordanian Foreign Ministry spokesman, told our radio that the political climate is appropriate for such a visit but its timing will be contingent solely the foreign minister's schedule and activities and no other consideration.

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Al-Mubayyidin noted that a technical and administrative delegation from the Foreign Ministry will leave for Gaza within the next few days to discuss with Palestinian officials arrangements pertaining to the opening of the Jordanian liaison office accredited to the Palestinian National Authority [PNA]. He added that the delegation will include the administrative officer, the director of the ministry's technical office, and a number of experts and administrators.

It is worth noting that Jordan decided to open a liaison and cooperation office in the PNA areas in light of the positive results of the Jordanian-Palestinian summit in Amman.

Omani Minister of State Meets With Prime Minister

JN0402133195 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 4 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir met with Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, in his office at the Prime Ministry at noon today. The meeting was attended by Dr. Khalid al- Karaki, deputy prime minister, information minister, and acting foreign minister, and the Omani ambassador in Amman.

During the meeting, which falls within the framework of consultations and coordination between the two fraternal countries, they discussed various issues designed to achieve the common interest of both countries and enhance bilateral relations in various fields on the wise instructions of the leaders of both countries.

They also exchanged views and ideas on the regional and international issues of mutual interest, particularly regarding closing ranks and reviving Arab solidarity, as well as the peace process developments.

Confers With King, Leaves for Cairo

JN0402192495 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 4 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] His Majesty King Husayn has received Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah. More details in the report of our correspondent for political affairs.

[Begin recording] [Correspondent Kassab Samawi] During the meeting, Yusuf Bin-'Alawi conveyed to His Majesty King Husayn the greetings of his brother His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id, sultan of Oman. His Majesty King Husayn briefed the guest Omani minister on the progress in the current peace process and Jordan's firm and principled position which seeks to realize a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace in the region. He also acquainted him with the results of the four-way summit that was held in Cairo Thursday [2 February].

The meeting was attended by Marwan al-Kasim, Royal Hashemite Court chief, and the Omani ambassador in Amman.

[Bin-'Abdallah] I was honored to meet with His Majesty King Husayn Bin-Talal, monarch of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and I conveyed to him the wishes of his brother His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id, sultan of Oman. I reviewed with him the march of bilateral relations, and I heard from his majesty the king the Jordanian views on several issues that concern the two countries and the Arab and Islamic worlds. I found that the views of the two monarchs of Oman and Jordan are identical, and that there is determination and will to develop bilateral relations in various fields and new sectors, especially in the scientific and technical sectors. [end recording] [passage omitted]

[Begin Bin-'Abdallah recording] We hope that the efforts of the sincere leaders, such as his majesty the king and his majesty the sultan and their other brothers, will be fruitful in their endeavor to clear the Arab atmosphere of the problems of the past, and that we will have the chance for the Arab countries to move into the next century. I believe that what is important is to advance the Middle East peace process so that the nation will get rid of this heavy burden, which it has carried for more than 50 years. [end recording]

Bin-'Abdallah left Amman tonight for Cairo to participate in the meeting of the Damascus Declaration states.

He was seen off by Khalid al-Karaki, deputy prime minister and minister of information and acting foreign minister, and the Omani ambassador.

Yemeni Foreign Minister Meets With King Husayn

JN0502171295 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 5 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At the Royal Hashemite Court this afternoon, His Majesty King Husayn received Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al- Iryani, Yemeni deputy prime minister and foreign minister. Dr. al- Iryani conveyed a message to His Majesty King Husayn from his brother, Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. The message deals with the distinguished relations between the two fraternal countries, current Arab issues, and the latest developments in the Arab and international arenas. Dr. al-Iryani also briefed his majesty on the progress of the negotiations between the Yemeni and Saudi governments.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Khalid al-Karaki, deputy prime minister, information minister, and acting foreign minister, and the Yemeni charge d'affaires in Amman.

Dr. al-Iryani arrived in Amman this afternoon on a short working visit to Jordan. He was received by Dr. Khalid al-Karaki, deputy prime minister, information minister, and acting foreign minister.

Comments on Saudi Talks, Departs

JN0502201695 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 5 Feb 95

[Italicized passages are recorded]

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[FBIS Translated Excerpt] At the Royal Hashemite Court this afternoon, His Majesty King Husayn received Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, Yemeni deputy prime minister and foreign minister. Dr. al-Iryani conveyed a message to His Majesty King Husayn from his brother, Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

The Yemeni minister left Amman following a visit to Jordan that lasted several hours. Suhayl Khuri from the news desk has more details in this report. [passage omitted]

Speaking to journalists before leaving Amman, the Yemeni foreign minister emphasized his country's full support for Jordan's political moves, which are aimed at unifying Arab efforts and coordinating the stands of Arab states toward the nation's crucial issues.

He added: *During the meeting, his majesty showed a warm, brotherly, and sincere attitude toward Yemen—leadership, government, and people. I had the honor of conveying the message given to me by President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. The message, as I have said earlier, deals with the distinguished relations between Jordan and the Yemeni Republic, regional developments, and the position of Yemen on these developments. We support Jordan's wise policy in this respect. I also briefed his majesty on the ongoing negotiations in Riyadh between the two delegations, from the Yemeni Republic and the fraternal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The purpose of the negotiations is to reach a general framework for an agreement that would eventually lead, God willing, to an agreement by the two parties to resolve their border dispute and all the outstanding problems.*

On the progress of the Yemeni-Saudi negotiations, Dr. al-Iryani said: *The current negotiations are a positive sign. More important than this, the brother president of the republic and the Yemeni leadership and government have affirmed that resolving the border dispute and putting the Yemeni-Saudi ties on the right track should stem from the al-Ta'if Agreement, signed between the two countries 60 years ago, in line with the principles of international law. This is definitely a positive thing.*

On Jordan's active diplomacy to restore Arab solidarity and Yemen's role in this, the Yemeni minister said: We bless these good efforts. The Yemeni Republic will do its best in this regard. Certainly, the Yemeni Republic supports this.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani was received and seen off at the airport by Dr. Khalid al-Karaki, deputy prime minister, information minister, and acting foreign minister, and the Yemeni charge d'affaires in Amman.

Paper on 'Special Significance' of Joining Cairo Summit

JN0402111695 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 4 Feb 95 pp 1, 14

[Editorial: "The Cairo Summit...A New Stage"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Jordan's participation in the Cairo summit, along with Egypt, Palestine, and Israel, has special significance. This is because Jordan has put its expertise in the peace process at the disposal of the conferees. In addition, Jordan plays an important role in advancing the Palestinian-Israeli peace track, especially after the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement, which enabled the Palestinian brothers to answer many questions that had obstructed certain aspects of their negotiations with the Israelis.

Jordan's participation in the summit makes the summit open to all the Arab parties. This is because Jordan would not participate in a summit that could produce an axis or bloc. Jordan participated in a summit that aimed to attract all the Arab parties to rebuild an Arab position that takes advantage of peace and its opportunities.

The peace process will face many challenges in the next stage, especially on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. There are also challenges on the Palestinian track, since Israel is still not implementing the agreements it had signed and is still not showing signs of good will toward these agreements. For example, it could release Palestinian prisoners and halt the growing settlement activity. Perhaps, the next stage will put the peace process on the right track so that it will be less costly and there will be less suffering and more strength to complete the remaining stages.

The main purpose of the Cairo summit was to advance the Palestinian-Israeli peace negotiations. Jordan has been eager to achieve a comprehensive, integral, and marketable peace in the region as an option for progress and development. Jordan will have a major role to play in view of the great links with the Palestinian issue and thanks to King Husayn's awareness of the suffering of the Palestinian people and knowledge about the nature and depth of the conflict and how to contribute toward addressing it in a way that enables the region to move toward salvation and not to follow wrong, hasty, and ineffective policies.

The Cairo summit was held at the initiative of Egypt and with international support. There are now broader prospects for this kind of action and other parties and countries could join this effort in future.

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Hizballah Radio Views Cairo Summit

NC0502101695 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 5 Feb 95

[From the "Pause at an Event" program: "Between the Summit of Alexandria and the Summit of Cairo"]

[FBIS Translated Text] When the Alexandria summit was held on 28 December 1994, there was a great deal of talk about it. The summit was attended by the Syrian and Egyptian presidents and the King of Saudi Arabia. The least that was said about the summit was that it represented a new, serious, and delicate attempt to stop the worsening Arab situation at a time when most Arab leaders had sunk deep into the Zionist hell. It was said that the Alexandria summit was the summit of Hafiz al-Asad, as it gained from the Syrian president's steadfastness and enjoyed some of his courage.

But soon another summit was held in Cairo. It was attended by the head of the Egyptian regime and those most enthusiastic for falling into the Israeli quagmire—the king of Jordan and the head of the Gaza-Jericho state. The fourth one in that group was the enemy prime minister. The conference was called the summit of the partners in peace. The quartet agreed to restore hope to Yitzhaq Rabin, who was loudly moaning under the blows of the Muslim mujahidin in Lebanon and Palestine.

The four-way summit came as a coup against Alexandria summit, returning things to a worse state and trying to corner the Syrian leadership and force it to sign an agreement similar to the Oslo Accord. This was reflected by enemy Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres when he called on President al-Asad to decide if he wanted to remain outside what he called the emerging new Middle East.

The four-way summit came to satisfy the usurper entity's need for fresh momentum. The conferees announced that the parties are committed to respecting and implementing the signed agreements. The summit realized the objectives of Tel Aviv, which was greatly annoyed with the Alexandria summit, considering it to be against itself. Egypt was withdrawn from the tripartite summit. Moreover, the Cairo summit mentioned nothing that could upset the Israeli mood. It failed to mention the continuing Zionist settlement activity in occupied Jerusalem and all Palestinian territory, although this activity is now threatening the mini-state of one of the four conferees, Yasir 'Arafat, and threatening Jerusalem in particular. The conferees in Cairo also failed to mention the closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip by the occupation forces.

In fact, the Arab leaders in the four-way summit disagree among themselves. King Husayn wants to supervise the holy places in Palestine, although they are still under occupation. The king does not want 'Arafat to play this role. 'Arafat, for his part, makes statements and hold talks here and there to ensure his supervision of the captive holy places. As concerns the head of the Egyptian regime, Husni Mubarak, he wants for himself bigger influence in the new Middle East advocated by Shim'on Peres. Mubarak wants this influence even at the expense of Jordan, Palestine, and all the Arabs. Therefore, Mubarak hosted Yitzhaq Rabin at a Ramadan Iftar banquet, where the killer of Arabs and Muslims, the saboteur of al-Aqsa mosque, had a delicious supper at the expense of Islam and the holy month of Ramadan.

Mubarak's role and influence are required. He supports the Alexandria summit and its principles, and at the same time, supports the Cairo summit and its ambitions. Mubarak tried to look like he was on the side of President al-Asad, but he is actually on the side of Yitzhaq Rabin. Otherwise, what is the meaning of Mubarak's signing the Alexandria summit statement and then, just over a month later, signing the Cairo summit statement? Mubarak is on the side of anyone who ensures bigger influence for him, and, consequently, he is on the side of the United States and the Zionist entity, who can guarantee him material interests and political influence in the new Middle East system.

But Mubarak does not realize that real gains and absolute honor are based on the interests of peoples, not the interests of their enemies. We ask Mubarak, who over the past weeks spoke about Israel's possession of nuclear weapons, why he failed in the Cairo summit to mention these weapons, which threaten the destiny of the Arabs and Muslims, and the destiny of peace worldwide. Why did he not ask Rabin to join the international organization that watches over nuclear installations?

Where is the Arab unity that Egyptian Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif spoke about during the Alexandria summit? He said that President Mubarak invited President al-Asad and the Saudi King to Alexandria to discuss steps to achieve Arab unity. Where is the credibility of this statement and this call? Now that Mubarak's false claims have been exposed, we say that he, through the tripartite summit, wanted to send a message to Israel that he agreed with Syria, and this would serve as a kind of pressure to improve his interests, although he secured none of them through the Zionists.

The Cairo summit helped Jordan's king go deep into his impossible partnership with the enemy as agreed in Wadi al-'Arabah, a partnership that opened another Arab capital to a peaceful Israeli invasion. The summit pushed 'Arafat deeper into the trap in which he has foolishly fallen since the Oslo agreement, an agreement that distorted a whole era of struggle and jihad and turned Palestine's forces and fedayeen, who dedicated their lives to liberating Jerusalem, into border guards for the occupation, indeed, into a [word indistinct] agency collecting information about the mujahidin and conveying it, through 'Arafat, to the occupation in return for continued talks on the future of self-rule.

If the Alexandria summit was held at the request of President Hafiz al-Asad, the Cairo summit was held at a

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request of Yitzhaq Rabin. Mubarak, in his maneuvers and ever-readiness to grab small opportunities, can meet with everybody, evaluating things and interests and then deciding. But all his decisions move in one direction, toward the bottom that the White House has determined is for the Arabs, the bottom of the stinking quagmire.

If the Casablanca summit, which was held under the patronage of Moroccan ruler Hassan II, opened the Arab economic doors wide to the Zionists to realize Shim'on Peres' dream and bring it to life from within the pages of his book, The New Middle East, through Arab money and stupidity, the Cairo summit opened the doors wide to this new Middle East. The summit wanted to draw the political map of the Middle East and wanted to build a coalition for peace between the usurper entity and the parties to the summit through, as Peres himself says, the institutionalization of the summit. The enemy foreign minister adds that the Syrian president should decide if he wants to remain outside a new Middle East and on the road of [word indistinct], as he put it. For his part, the Zionist health minister considered the summit a warning to the Syrians that the peace process will proceed with or without them.

Perhaps the conferees wanted to leave Israel outside the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty to frighten and pressure Damascus. But they did not realize that Damascus leans on a major resistance movement, and that the resistance leans on broad masses of Arabs and Muslims. Anyone with such support, and with faith in his right and good cause, will certainly triumph, even if later. The parties to the Cairo summit cannot make any decision that would force others to yield. All that they can do is to restore confidence in the Israeli Government, a confidence shaken by the heroic operations in Palestine and Lebanon. The operations turned the Israeli public against the government.

It is the summit of Rabin and the Labor Party, the friend of the Arabs, against the Likud, which will not be short of ways to woo the Arab rulers when it comes to power.

Hizballah Official Assails Joint Security Committee

NC0502090695 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 5 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Hizballah Consultative Council Member Shaykh Muhammad Yazbik has said that Cairo's four-way summit was a reaction to the Alexandria tripartite summit and to the attempt to reunite Arab ranks. He said the summit also aimed at laying the foundations of a new Middle East system in which the enemy will be the shining star and the others mere followers.

Shaykh Yazbik said the [Lebanese-U.S.] security committee is a stab at Lebanon's independence and is [U.S.] participation in the (?government). He said this is meant to undermine the spirit of this nation. Consequently, he added, the American interference in Lebanon's affairs is flagrant. He wondered why Lebanon is not allowed to interfere in America's affairs.

Shaykh Yazbik stressed that Hizballah is the largest political sector in Lebanon, and no one can annihilate it. He said resistance is fighting for the homeland's dignity and sons, and is not competing with anyone for power or [word indistinct]. He said Hizballah's strength lies in its ambition for a dignified life and its endeavor to abolish discrimination between one person and another.

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Yemeni Deputy Prime Minister Arrives for Visit

To Deliver Message to al-Asad

JN0402171695 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 4 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, Yemeni deputy prime minister and foreign minister, arrived in Damascus this evening on a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. He was received at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', the head of the Protocol Department at the Foreign Ministry, the Yemeni charge d'affaires in Damascus, and the Yemeni Embassy staff.

In a statement to a SANA correspondent, Dr. al-Iryani said: I came to Syria to deliver a message to President Hafiz al-Asad from his brother [Yemeni] President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih that deals with bilateral relations, the situation in the region, and developments in the talks between Yemen and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in order to end all forms of conflict between them whether in terms of border or other issues.

Discusses Arab Developments With Al-Shar'

JN0402213795 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2115 GMT 4 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' this evening received Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, Yemen's deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Discussion during the meeting touched on developments in the Arab arena. In this respect, Dr. al-Iryani praised the Syrian mediation and reviewed its positive outcome. He also reviewed the stages covered by the negotiations between the two sisterly countries, Saudi Arabia and Yemen, to resolve the border issues and restore bilateral ties to normal.

Meets With al-Asad

JN0502105395 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1015 GMT 5 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, Yemen's deputy prime minister and foreign minister, at the People's Palace at 1115 today.

The meeting was attended by Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', and the Yemeni charge d'affaires in Damascus.

Makes Statement, Departs

JN0502140395 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 5 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, Yemeni deputy prime minister and foreign minister, left Damascus this afternoon after a two-day visit to Syria. He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', senior Foreign Ministry officials, the Yemeni ambassador in Damascus, and the embassy staff.

In a statement to reporters, Dr. al-Iryani said the Yemeni leadership, government, and people highly appreciate the good efforts Syria is exerting under President Hafiz al-Asad to defuse tension between the Republic of Yemen and the fraternal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. He added: I am pleased by the results of my visit to Syria. I had the honor to meet with His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and to convey to him a letter from his brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih in appreciation for Syria's position in this regard, for its continued interest in the current negotiations in Riyadh, and for the Syrian leadership's eagerness to see these negotiations successful.

Dr. al-Iryani also said that he and Foreign Minister Faruq al- Shar' held talks yesterday on issues pertaining to the Arab nation such as the situation in the Arabian Peninsula and the Gulf.

Damascus TV: Cairo Summit 'Content' With 'Assertions'

JN0302202795 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 3 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The final statement issued after the first meeting held by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, Jordanian King Husayn, self-rule authority head Yasir 'Arafat, and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin was content only with the conferees assertions that they will remain committed to implementing their bilateral agreements. However, the statement does not define the obstacles facing these agreements, such as settlement in the West Bank and Jerusalem in particular, the release of Palestinians held in Israeli prisons, or the signing of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, to which Israel refuses to commit itself.

Regarding the latter point, the statement mentions nothing other than the conferees' appreciation for President Husni Mubarak's proposal to remove nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. It also says that the participants were unanimous in this joint statement on so-called bloodshed, terrorism, and violence and that they are determined to confront such actions.

After reading the joint statement, Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said the conferees had not agreed on how to end the closure Israel imposed on the West Bank and Gaza Strip following a Palestinian fedayeen operation carried out on 22 January and that no measure was taken regarding settlement activities in the occupied territories. Musa also pointed out that this issue will be discussed in later negotiations and that 'Arafat and Rabin will meet at the Erez checkpoint on Thursday.

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Papers Call Israel 'Only Beneficiary' From Cairo Summit

NC0502125595 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 5 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Syrian newspapers today stressed that Israel is the only beneficiary from the Arab-Israeli summit that was held in Cairo Thursday [2 February]. They said that while the summit gave nothing to the Arabs, Israel got what it wanted.

Reaction to Cairo Summit Viewed

JN0302182595 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Observers in Damascus have the impression that Damascus' reaction, at least in public, to the Cairo summit shows Syria does not view the summit as directed against it. There has been no comment on the summit other than the statement Syrian Information Minister Muhammad Salman made to our radio yesterday. Minister Salman described the summit as a new attempt to break the deadlock facing the Oslo agreement parties.

However, Syrian newspapers published full reports on the summit, including the arrival of delegations in Cairo, the opening of the talks, the final statement, and the statements made by the participants.

A Syrian information source said Syria, which was previously informed of the Cairo summit, has no doubt that the three Arab sides that took part in the summit support its position on the peace talks with Israel, regardless of the agreements signed between these sides and Israel.

The source added that Syria believes the Cairo summit is intended to inform Israel that its current policy will threaten the overall peace process with collapse.

For its part, the AL-THAWRAH newspaper said all signs are that the countdown for the peace process has begun after three years of stagnation. It is noteworthy that Syria has paid no attention to the Israeli health minister's statement, which is not devoid of defiance. He said the Cairo summit is a warning to Syria that the peace process will go on with or without it.

'Resistance' Will Stop When 'Just Peace' Prevails

JN0302153895 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 3 Feb 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: It is not enough for Israel to claim, from time to time, that it is determined to push the peace process forward to realize the desired progress. Peace is a continuous activity, a firm commitment to international legitimacy's resolutions, and an honest translation of their content. So far, this has not happened. Israel has not adhered to any of these resolutions and has failed to translate any of them into palpable fact. Rather, it has sought to deform these resolutions and to destroy the goal of a just and comprehensive peace by concluding partial deals which, later on, turn out to be timebombs that explode at a predetermined time. These deals are used by the Israeli rulers as pretexts to wash their hands of the entire peace process.

Let us take the Oslo agreement as an example. The agreement not only disappointed Palestinians inside and outside the occupied lands, but also became, under continuous Israeli pressure, a new tool for their suppression. The Palestinian Authority, which is supposed to help and support the people, became an instrument of Israeli terror. Israel is planning for Palestinian infighting and on inundating the occupied territories in a sea of blood. Under such circumstances, it is natural for the Palestinian people to continue their national struggle for the freedom and self-determination that are completely absent from the ominous agreement.

Israel's rulers not only torpedoed the goal of a just peace by imposing this unfair deal on the Palestinian side, and not only shrugged off the Security Council resolutions that stipulate self-determination and withdrawal from the occupied territories, they also dealt a blow to the forces that brought them to power in search of a well-founded peace. Had Israel's rulers possessed the necessary moral courage and had genuine peace intentions, the Oslo agreement would have been something quite different, and would have included, among other things, the right to self-determination for the Palestinian people and the withdrawal of invading troops from the occupied territories.

While an entire people are denied the right to self-determination and prevented from moving on their land and homeland, while Israel continues to strip their sons from their lands and orders their bulldozers to usurp Arab villages and towns and annexes them to settlements, and while Israel subjects that entire West Bank and the Gaza Strip to a siege and its troops fire indiscriminately at innocent civilians, then all forms of resistance seem legitimate.

Israel has deliberately destroyed the goal of a just and comprehensive peace by imposing the ominous Oslo agreement on the Palestinian side and by using the self-rule authority to serve its settlement and suppressive schemes. It willfully wrecked the goal of a just and comprehensive peace when it declined to respond to the Syrian proposals and principles to make a just and strong peace in the region and evaded the land-for-peace principle and the ensuing withdrawal of its troops from all the Golan and southern Lebanon. It is still wrecking the goal of a just peace on a daily basis through its rude practices, large-scale settlement activity in the occupied territories, through dismissal of the principles of right and justice, and an insistence on its aggressive policy against Lebanon.

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It should be noted that politicians and observers who follow Middle East affairs have warned, and still warn, Israel against continuing to tread this wrongful path. Peace cannot be realized with the denial of the Palestinian people's rights and by usurping their land. Peace cannot be realized while the Golan and southern Lebanon are still occupied. The only option for Israel's rulers is to implement the Security Council resolutions and return all occupied lands to their people and owners if they really wish to make a stable peace in the region. However, Israel's rulers are insisting on their wrongdoings and refuse to draw lessons from the successive painful events. Instead of saying frankly to Israelis that peace is impossible without withdrawal and that peace is far more important than gains and settlement activity, they are deceiving themselves and their citizens by attributing their failure to what they call terrorism. By this they mean national resistance. It should be mentioned that resistance will automatically stop once a just peace has prevailed—a peace that returns land and rights and consecrates the principles of right and justice and the rule of international law.

No doubt, the peace process is deadlocked. It is impossible to rid this process of stalemating and stumbling without going back to the bases and terms of reference of the peace process, as it began in Madrid, and without Israel's full withdrawal from the occupied lands to pre-4 June 1967 lines.

Khaddam Reportedly Says Jordan 'Israeli Protectorate'

JN0302165995 Amman SHIHAN in Arabic 4-10 Feb 95 p 9

[Report by Yusuf al-Bustanji]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Syrian Government has managed to use the Jordanian opposition parties as a propaganda tool to serve the Syrian position on the domestic front, on the Arab front, and in the negotiation process with the Israelis, as well. This is despite the fact that some of the parties that took part in the delegation [representing several Jordanian political parties opposed to the Jordanian Government's position on the peace process that arrived in Damascus on 24 January for talks with Syrian officials] previously adopted positions at odds with the Syrian position on the Jordanian-Israeli treaty, the Palestinian-Israeli Oslo agreement, and on the position on Iraq. [passage omitted]

The Jordanian delegation met with a number of Syrian officials, including Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam; Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, vice president and vice chairman of the National Progressive Front; and 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general [of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party].

Speaking about the Gulf war and its results, 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam said Iraq fell into a trap set by the United States and that Iraq's recent movements enabled the United States to squeeze $10 billion from the Gulf states. He added: We are accustomed to airplanes, tanks, and coups, but our Kuwaiti brothers flee if they hear the pop of a firecracker.

A delegation source said Khaddam tried to justify Syria's participation in the Gulf war with the international coalition against Iraq. He said: "Had we not participated, Israel would have participated and controlled the Gulf."

Delegation sources said some members of the delegation expressed the need to "save Jordan from the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty." They called for turning the treaty into a cold peace and to minimize its results and effects. Therefore, the delegation called for reviving the Syrian-Jordanian committee and promoting relations with Jordan.

The source said the Syrians expressed extreme discontent with the Jordanian stand. On the Jordanian-Israeli treaty, Khaddam has been cited as saying: "Jordan is just a participant and not an actual partner, and in accordance with the treaty, Jordan will be turned into an Israeli protectorate. On this basis, nothing links us with Jordan anymore."

He said: In Jordan, they talk about a just, durable peace, while we say peace must be just and comprehensive on all Arab fronts in Palestine, Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon.

He said: There is no durable peace if we are excluded. He added that some contacts between Gulf officials and Israel took place in Jordan. [passage omitted]

The source said although the Syrians stress the need to activate popular Arab meetings, they were not willing to hold a meeting between the Jordanian opposition parties and the leaders of Palestinian opposition factions headquartered in Damascus.

The source attributed that to the Syrians' willingness to keep the spotlight focused on the Jordanian delegation's meetings with the Syrian leadership to serve propaganda objectives, especially in Jordan. At the end of the visit, the Syrians were not willing to raise the issue of issuing a statement because they felt there was a disagreement among some Jordanian parties on the Syrian position.

Paper: Country 'Not in a Hurry' To Conclude Peace

JN0402082595 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 4 Feb 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In its editorial, AL-THAWRAH comments on the Middle East peace process, saying that peace should be just and comprehensive and based on international legitimacy and its resolutions. Any attempt to bypass these principles will eventually abort the peace process, which is being handled here and there to allow Israel to escape the true obligations of peace.

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AL-THAWRAH adds: Israel must realize that all the peace agreements it has concluded so far are not viable and firm, since they are not based on justice and comprehensiveness. These agreements also ignore the major parties to the peace process and ignore the primary condition for peace in the region, namely, achieving a solution on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks.

The paper asserts that Syria is not in a hurry at all to conclude deals that prejudice its national rights and achieve gains for Israel, whatever the considerations and regardless if the strategic balance of power is in favor of Israel.

The paper concludes: The present situation of the nation is transient and cannot continue, as the leader of the nation, President Hafiz al-Asad, has observed. The latent potential and capabilities of the nation must be tapped to change this situation and create a new balance. This will enable the Arabs to confront Israel's belligerence and challenges to our homeland. The Arab nation can do this. It has achieved such progress throughout its long history.

Press: Arabs Have Right To Resist Israel's 'Terrorism'

JN0402091895 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 4 Feb 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In its editorial, TISHRIN says Israel is the source of terrorism in the region, in spite of its accusations against the Palestinian and Lebanese resistance in this respect. The paper reviews Israeli practices throughout the past years, affirming that Israel has a record full of serious terrorist acts, such as massacres, displacement of people, settlement activity, rejection of international resolutions, and shelling southern Lebanon.

TISHRIN says Israel is the cornerstone of organized terrorism in the region. Israel's daily conduct has been marked by terrorism since its foundation in 1948. Had another entity other than Israel committed the same Israeli practices, the world would have raised a big hue and cry. However, the West forgives Israel its criminal acts under pressure from the Zionist lobby. The world raises its voice if the Arab resistance men reply to Israeli attacks.

On the peace process, TISHRIN speaks about the response of the Arabs, led by Syria, to international peace efforts. Israel, on the other hand, has refused to return the territory, defied international resolutions, and insisted on occupation, expansion, and settlement activity. Israel has also prevented the return of thousands of Arab refugees and displaced people to their land.

TISHRIN concludes: Peace cannot be built in a vacuum. Peace has some major foundations, primarily implementing Security Council resolutions, withdrawing from all the occupied Arab territories, and securing self-determination for the Palestinian people. Without this, the Arabs have the right today and tomorrow to confront Israel's organized terrorism and fight occupation, just like all other nations. The report submitted by Rene Felber, a former Swiss minister, to the United Nations about Israel's serious violations in the occupied territories, should open the eyes of many and wake their sleeping consciences.

Radio Calls For 'Quick Action' To 'Save' Peace Process

JN0402163195 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1235 GMT 4 Feb 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: Nowadays, Israeli officials are talking a lot about returning to the negotiating table on the Syrian track. This leads those who have not been following the long peace process to believe that achieving peace depends on the reconvening of the Washington talks, which Israel froze as a result of its intransigence and due to its rejection of the bases of a just and comprehensive peace.

In light of this situation, we, along with wondering observers, ask: Should whoever shows all this enthusiasm and eagerness to resume talks in Washington show so much pessimism, as Yitzhaq Rabin has expressed, about the possibility of achieving progress in these talks? Moreover, should whoever shows all this fervor toward the talks precede them by saying, as Shim'on Peres did, that there is no opportunity for achieving real progress? We will not go too far in our thoughts and conclusions and we will not do as Israel did in terms of prejudging events. However, as we see such intensified pressure from false Israeli enthusiasm about peace, we have the right to point out some facts that caused the stalemate in the peace process. We must also point out the facts which must receive a response if Israel wants to give a new push to the peace process.

The fact known to everyone, including the U.S. cosponsor of the peace process, is that Israel does not want peace because it does not want to withdraw fully from the Golan and southern Lebanon. It is seeking to conclude separate deals that would secure for it open borders as well as diplomatic, economic, and political relations. It also wants to develop all that into continuous penetrations of the fabric of the region through projects designed to exercise hegemony over it.

Events have proven that Israeli penetrations cannot serve the peace process. Indeed, these Israeli penetrations are obstructing the path of the peace process and U.S. and international efforts to make this process a success and to achieve a just and comprehensive peace. In addition to the fact that Syria is not involved in any proposals that do not comply with the bases of the peace process, and will not bargain over its territories and

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national and pan-Arab rights, the experience of partial agreements has proved the failure of such agreements. These agreements turned into mines in the peace process. In light of events and developments, they became a burden for those who concluded them.

Peace is not a formality that is resolved through the exchange of smiles and photo opportunities. This is because the conflict is not between individuals, whatever their positions. It is a conflict about territories and rights. Peace will not be achieved unless people are convinced of the justice of the solution—one that restores territories and rights and maintains dignity.

If Israel continues to adhere to its proposals, which contradict the bases of the peace process, we will not be able to talk about progress. Until Israel recognizes the principle of full withdrawal, it will deliberately seek to obstruct efforts to push the peace process forward. It will continue to possess methods of intransigence which enable it to make any new round of talks revolve in a vicious circle and, thus, push the peace process toward the impasse that has led to the current stalemate. This requires those concerned about the success of the peace process to take quick action to push Israel toward respecting international legitimacy's resolutions and the land-for-peace principle in order to save peace efforts and the peace process from collapse.

Khaddam Views Lebanese Presidential Elections

NC0402071195 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 4 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In a televised interview, Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam denied that Syria is the primary force that dominates the Lebanese presidential elections. He said that this charge is an act of injustice to both Syria and Lebanon. Khaddam said that the main force controlling elections in Lebanon is the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies.

The Syrian vice president added that the amendment of the constitution rests in the hands of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies. He said that the Chamber has no current plans to amend the al-Ta'if Accord. Khaddam noted that the talk about Christian frustration [ihbat] or Maronite frustration is not objective.

In the interview, the Syrian vice president affirmed that his country considers all Lebanese as brothers and friends, reiterating that Syria has no covetous designs in Lebanon. He said that Lebanon benefits from its relations with Syria in the economic fields. Khaddam said that the Syrian presence in Lebanon is contingent on two matters: first, the Lebanese Government's decision, and second, the continuing Israeli attacks on Lebanon.

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Afghanistan

UN Spokesman on Latest Political Contacts

LD0502151395 Tehran IRNA in English 1456 GMT 5 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, Feb. 5, IRNA—All Afghan groups have agreed in principle to a mechanism of power transfer and most of them have their representatives to the interim set-up proposed by United Nations Special Mission on Afghanistan, a UN spokesman announced here today. He told IRNA that Hezb-e Ettehad-e Eslami led by Professor 'Abdorrab Rasul Sayyaf, an ally of President Borhanoddin Rabbani and Taliban, Afghan theology students had yet to give their names to the proposed interim set-up.

Leader of UN special mission on Afghanistan who has been here since December last and has been frequently visiting Afghanistan, met taliban leaders on Saturday in southwestern Kandahar Province.

The UN spokesman were unaware of the details of the meeting.

Afghan observers are attaching great significance to Mestiri's meeting with taliban who had been unheard of until 4 months ago but have now shot into prominance since taking Kandahar from mujahideen forces in July last. The Afghan sources confirmed that Mestiri had proposed a 24-member interim government but did not disclose the details.

Mestiri met with representatives of anti-Rabbani alliance, Supreme Coordination Council of Islamic revolution of Afghanistan led by his sworn enemy Golboddin Hekmatyar in Islamabad on Friday last and held talks with the special delegation of Rabbani led by Sayyaf in eastern Afghan town of Jalalabad on Saturday. Sayyaf-led team, currently in Jalalabad, has not yet met opposition delegation.

Sayyaf objects over the inclusion of representative of northern National Islamic Movement of Afghanistan led by Uzbek commander General 'Abdol Rashid Dostam for their being, "communist." However, rival side refused to talk to Sayyaf without Dostam's representative.

Taleban Group Attacks Hekmatyar Positions

LD0502204195 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 5 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Taleban group, one of the groups that opposes other groups in Afghanistan, by advancing toward Maidan Shehr, center of Wardak Province, heavily attacked the positions of Golboddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami. Our colleague reports from Islamabad:

[Begin Unidentified correspondent recording] Sources associated with Afghanistan's Defense Ministry say that armed men belonging to the newly established Taleban group attacked Maidan Shehr, center of Wardak Province, which is located 50 km southwest of Kabul.

Maidan Shehr is under the control of Golboddin Hekmatyar, an arch rival of Borhanoddin Rabbani. The commander of the city has said that his men would defend the city. While the Defense Ministry's sources in Kabul reported clashes and exchanges of heavy weapon fire between forces of Taleban and Hezb-e Eslami during Sunday, no report has been received from independent sources in Afghanistan about these clashes.

The Taleban group, which was formed about six months ago, has so far taken control of several of Afghanistan's southern provinces. The Taleban group, which emphasizes its opposition to all warring groups in Afghanistan, on its advance toward Kabul presented details of its proposals for the establishment of peace in Kabul in a meeting with a UN special mission in Kandahar. Charles Santoz, political adviser of the mission, described the negotiations with the Taleban leaders as useful and constructive. [end recording]

Government Welcomes EU Statement on Solutions

LD0502184495 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 5 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The EU [European Union] statement on the solution of the Afghan issues [words indistinct]. The Foreign Ministry of the Islamic State of Afghanistan approves the recent EU statement on Afghan issues and expresses the following: Taking into account the interests of the Afghan nation, Afghanistan has harmonized its efforts with the international organization [not further identified], especially that of esteemed Mahmud Mestiri, special envoy of the UN secretary general, and has always reflected this policy through statements and other documents.

The Afghan Foreign Ministry once again put emphasis on the support of the international organization and friendly countries for its existence, territorial integrity, national independence, and the prevention of interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan, permanent cease-fire, and the supply of food and medicine to Kabul. Similarly, its stance on the noncultivation and production of drugs is similar to the international community, and considers them a serious and very great danger to humanity. Afghanistan has taken practical steps in this respect; and expressing gratitude to the European Union, Afghanistan again asks that practical and strong steps be taken to realize the above mentioned goals, and it will help the reconstruction of Afghanistan.

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Stolen Satellite Communication System Recovered

LD0402182395 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 4 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An international communication satellite system's apparatus and technical equipment, which had been stolen three days ago, was discovered and retrieved last night. Together with the discovery of the equipment, seven perpetrators were also arrested.

The military correspondent of the BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY reported that three days ago a group of thieves managed to steal a complete satellite system, worth around $3 million. [passage indistinct]

India

2 Soldiers Killed in Explosion at Kashmir Border

BK0602100395 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 6 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, two security personnel were killed this morning in an explosion at the border village of Palanwala in the Akhnoor sector. Five explosions had occurred in the area three days ago damaging a building.

Meanwhile, in Jammu city, youth Congress-I workers held a demonstration today raising slogans against Pakistan. They demanded that Pakistan should be declared a terrorist state for its open incitement of terrorism in Kashmir valley.

New Delhi Opposes U.S. Linking Trade, Human Rights

BK0302160595 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 3 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi has voiced its opposition to any move by Washington to link trade with human rights record. It has made it clear that India is second to none in safeguarding human rights, and any linkage or conditionalities in its relations with foreign nations are not acceptable. An External Affairs Ministry spokesman was responding to queries by newsmen on such reports from Washington and also on the State Department's annual report on human rights to the U.S. Congress. He appreciated the U.S. recognition of the role played by terrorists in the killings and abuses of human rights in Jammu and Kashmir and also its observations that the Human Rights Commission in India is functioning well. He rejected the allegation that New Delhi's response to Amnesty International's queries were not adequate. He said of the 732 cases of alleged human rights violations brought to notice, detailed answers were given in 432 cases within 10 days. Regarding its visit to India, the spokesman said discussions are still continuing with the London- based group, which already had come twice.

Meanwhile, the Bharatiya Janata Party has strongly criticized the prejudiced and one-sided reports of Amnesty International regarding the human rights situation in India.

Editorial Reviews Growth, Remaining Impediments

BK0402130695 Delhi THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 4 Feb 95 p 12

[Editorial: "Barriers To Growth"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The news from the industrial front is encouraging. Not only are business expectations for the medium term positive, but industrial performance over the first half of 1994-95 has borne out the expectations of a revival after two years of lull. The Index of Industrial Production [IIP] for the period April to October 1994 has recorded an eight per cent rate of growth over the same period in the previous year. The news for the last month of this period, namely October, is not encouraging with the IIP dipping for the first time in the year from 242.9 in September 1994 to 238.1. However, when compared to October 1993, there is still an improvement since there was a similar dip in the IIP last year. What is most welcome about industrial growth in this period is the performance of the capital goods sector which has recorded a 21.7 per cent growth rate compared to a decline of 0.7 per cent in the same period last year. The manufacturing sector as a whole has picked up by 8.3 per cent, while electricity generation, a good proxy for overall economic activity (including what is unreported to government authorities), grew at 7.7 per cent. However, electricity generation in April to October 1993 had also grown at 7.6 per cent. This suggests that industrial recovery may have started exerting pressure on power supply. Indeed, if the optimistic business expectations for the medium term have to be borne out and industrial recovery sustained, it is imperative that the power supply situation is speedily improved.

In this context, the recent report of the Planning Commission on cost and time over-runs in the power sector must cause serious concern for power policy makers. In the excitement over attracting foreign private investment into the power sector, attention is being lost of the productivity of existing and pipeline investment, which is mainly in the public sector. While the government is right to make private investment in power attractive, provided the procedures for awarding contracts and financial guarantees are transparent and competitive, it must pay greater attention to improving the productivity and efficiency of the public sector if the emerging power shortage has to be speedily dealt with. None of the private sector projects will fructify till well into the ninth Plan period. In the meanwhile, if an eight per cent rate of industrial growth has to be maintained and pushed up to 10 per cent, and if overall national income growth has to be sustained at six per cent, there is no alternative to improving the productivity of existing investment. This

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is easier said than done for the challenge here is not in announcing radical new policies, but getting down to the difficult and mundane business of improving generation and distribution efficiency. In all the hype on economic liberalisation and privatisation, no one is paying adequate attention to the tough managerial challenge of tackling the problem of wasted resources in the existing power plants.

Editorial Cites 'Host' of Singh Broken Promises

BK0402142695 Delhi BUSINESS STANDARD in English 4 Feb 95 p 6

[Editorial: "The budget and broken promises"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the run-up to the Union Budget every year, the finance ministry takes stock of the year gone by. Specific attention is paid to the promises made by the finance minister at the presentation of the previous year's budget. Those which have been kept are highlighted; the ones that aren't are glossed over.

Dr Manmohan Singh, too, in the course of the last four budgets, has made a fair share of promises. He has fulfilled many of them, such as the simplification of trade policy, eliminating licensing and associated bureaucratic delays, reform of direct and indirect tax laws, not to mention engineering a substantial economic turnaround.

But here are several unkept promises as well. These fall into two broad categories. Within the macro-economic policy framework, the finance minister has neither been able to achieve the fiscal targets for the last three years nor contain inflationary pressures. Nor was he able to do away with subsidies and push tariff reductions far enough. At the policy level, Mr Singh's promise of revamping the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act (in tune with the new developments in the external sector), introduction of a Depositories Act to solve the custodial problems, and a freshly drafted Companies Act and opening up of the insurance sector have remained unfulfilled.

When Mr Singh became finance minister in June 1991, the basic task before him was to curb inflation, set the balance of payments right, and bring the economy back on the growth path. His basic policy prescription, besides availing of a loan from the International Monetary Fund, was to contain the fiscal deficit and launch a medium-term structuring programme, including new initiatives in trade policy and industrial policy aimed at improving the efficiency, productivity and international competitiveness of Indian industry.

In 1991-92, Mr Singh proposed a fiscal deficit target of 6.5 per cent of gross domestic product. And against the odds, he managed to peg it much lower at 6 per cent. But that was the last time he was able to stick to the target.

In 1992-93, the target for the fiscal deficit was set at 5 per cent of GDP. Quite creditably, the year ended with an actual deficit of 5.6 per cent. But the situation worsened in 1993-94, with the actual fiscal deficit working out to 7.3 per cent as compared to the proposed 4.7 per cent when the Budget estimates were presented. The targets were missed because of a combination of revenue shortfall as well as major expenditure overruns. There was additional outgo was largely by way of food, fertiliser and export promotion subsidies. In aggregate terms, the non-plan revenue expenditure was up from the targeted level of Rs 77,654 [rupees] crore to Rs 83,870 crore. Mr Singh also had to account for larger capital expenditure, with the revised estimates for 1993-94 showing an outgo of Rs 33,648 crore as compared to the projection of Rs 29,484 crore.

In the Budget for 1994-95 Mr Singh chose to gloss over this embarrassing slippage, claiming that it would not lead to any adverse macro-economic setback because of the slack in the economy. "The slippage in the fiscal deficit in 1993-94, has been less damaging than might have been the case ordinarily, mainly because of the existence of sizeable idle industrial capacity and low investment levels," he said. But the subsequent return of double- digit inflation showed that the finance minister had erred in his assessment that the slack in the economy would absorb the fiscal profligacy in 1993-94.

To make matters worse, revenue collection in the year fell far short of targets. As compared to the projected level of Rs 62,739 crore, the revised estimate of net revenue collections to the Centre was Rs 54,473 crore. This was largely on account of major shortfall in customs revenue.

Further, the actual extent of buoyancy in direct tax collections could not be reflected as the government had to fork out an unusually large sum of refunds in 1993-94. This, ministry officials conceded, was on account of the window-dressing effected in the previous year when the government's accounts were reviewed by a Fund-team every quarter. To show buoyancy in revenues, the income- tax department had raised the tax demand on banks and financial institutions. This had to be refunded the following year, which eventually resulted indirect tax collections actually falling short of the target of Rs 20,000 crore by Rs 500 crore.

In the current financial year, too, no one really expects Mr Singh to stick to the fiscal deficit target of 6 per cent of GDP. Claims of the finance ministry notwithstanding, economists attached to leading FIIs [foreign institutional investors] claim that the fiscal deficit would slip to around 6.9 per cent of GDP. There are dark hints that it could go up even further if there is no window- dressing. We will know soon enough.

It is hardly surprising, then, that inflation has crept back to double digits once again. The average annual rate of inflation was 13.7 per cent in 1991-92, 10.1 per cent in 1992-93 and 8.4 per cent in 1993-94. Projections put out by the National Council for Applied Economic Research

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maintain that the inflation rate would average about 10 per cent in the current fiscal year.

For a smooth transition from a controlled regime to an open economy, the finance minister had promised to set up a tariff commission. The objective was to ensure that the anomalies in the tariff structure are straightened out and the domestic industry is not thrown off balance. The proposed tariff commission is however yet to see light.

Meanwhile, there are a number of unfulfilled promises in respect of policy reform as well. Mr Singh's 1991 promise to push through a fresh Companies Bill still remains unfulfilled. Starting then, the bill has undergone so many changes that, as things stand, the government would have to withdraw the existing Companies Act, 1956 and replace it with a new Act incorporating all the changes envisaged in the bill. Though the Department of Company Affairs has been talking of introducing the new Act in Parliament for the last three successive sessions of the Parliament, nothing has happened. The bill is currently with the law ministry.

Likewise, the new Depositories Act to usher in paperless trading is hanging fire. Conceived as far back as December 1993, the formalisation is yet to commence. Government sources maintain that the law ministry has not even commenced drafting the bill. This implies that it will not be taken up even in the budget session of parliament.

The package of reforms for the insurance sector, after due clearance from the finance ministry, has also been held up in the cabinet secretariat. On this, the onus is entirely on the political leadership. The finance ministry is all for opening up, but the rest of the government is yet to take a stand on the subject.

On the revamp of Fera [Foreign Exchange Regulations Act], which was first proposed in February, 1992, Mr Singh has had to weather considerable opposition from within the ministry itself. The revenue department in particular had strongly opposed the report submitted by the three-member task force for recasting the Fera.

The task force argued that the existing Fera provisions was appropriate but cannot continue to be so in view of the government's decision to gradually eliminate exchange control restrictions with respect to capital account on the balance of payments.

The main reservations of the revenue department are against the proposed changes to sections 8 and 9 of Fera. The three-member task force had argued that with the withdrawal of exchange control restrictions, the need to regulate transactions of non-resident Indians in rupees under section 9 would not arise.

In the final analysis, Mr Singh has a host of promises unfulfilled. If he succeeds in obtaining the requisite political backing, some of the promises can be met in the forthcoming budget. But the chances for that appear remote, especially in view of the political uncertainties now engulfing the central government.

Editorial on Congress Entering Period of Crisis

95AS0183B Calcutta ANANDA BAZAR PATRIKA in Bengali 3 Jan 95

[Editorial: Whither Congress?]

[FBIS Translated Excerpts] It is no wonder that Congress will be Congress. The party moves on its own course in times of crisis or in good days. Some agitated leaders always remain in the party and if the highest leader has considerable popular support behind him, they remain quiet. If the highest leader, however, is less popular and less commanding, those agitated leaders try to search for an opportunity to fulfill their political ambitions. The highest leader, for his part, always tries to make the ground soft under the feet of [other] potential leaders so that they cannot challenge the highest leadership. When any agitated leader raises question about the authority of the leadership, an attempt is made to corner him by the others. Even if he raises a question about principles, it is taken as an act of challenging the highest authority and attempts are made to punish him or even suspend him from the party. [passage omitted]

A meeting of the cabinet rejected all the allegations of Arjun Singh and reiterated its full confidence in the prime minister. But the position and actions of Rao government on the issues of Ayodhya and problems of the minorities is questionable. Simple rejection of the allegations of Arjun will not resolve the issues. In running the party, the way Narasimha Rao is following an autocratic style violates his own promise as pointed out by Arjun. The members of the cabinet and the working committee of the party loyal to Narasimha Rao are pretending that there is nothing wrong anywhere in the party or in the government and that some selfish and ambitious leaders like Arjun Singh are creating the problems for their own interests. But the real situation is different. Recently, the party lost control over two states in South India. The party faces trouble in the coming elections. The minorities are no longer considering Congress the protector of their interests. The scheduled castes, tribes and backward people have their own political platform. Disunity is rampant in different state units of the party and in some states, the local committees are about to disregard the authority of the high command. These are mainfestations of a serious disease in the management style of the party leadership and the leadership has to address the problems. Instead of doing the needful, they are out to find a scape goat. The agitated leaders like Arjun Singh and Narayan Dutt Tiwari are doing many things to create pressure on the high command. They are using this excuse to go to Sonia Gandhi, widow of former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi, for her blessings. Sonia did not express a desire about entering into politics. But the regular visits of agitated leaders to her government residence are creating much speculation in political circles. Some of the agitated leaders are trying

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to portray a scenario in which their opposition to Rao is supported by Sonia. It appears that the party high command in reaction has become nervous. [passage omitted]

The situation is reaching the point where instead of addressing the questions of principles, attempts are being made to take political revenge. But now the immediate necessity is self analysis. If the leadership takes the course of self analysis and self criticism with honesty, they could find the reasons for the defeat in the elections and other crisis the party now faces. After doing that they can try to find the ways to address the problems. But Narasimha Rao and his high command are consciously and carefully avoiding the urgent need of self criticism and open dialogue among themselves. If they go on like this, it will bring no good either for the party or for the government. Narasimha Rao should understand that it is very urgent to establish the image of a democratic set up of his party and a clean, honest and impartial administration of his government. The image is full of black spots due to some incidents in recent times. It is not possible to wipe out the black spots without an effort to reorganize the party and the government.

Iran

Velayati Discusses Obstacles to Iraq, U.S. Ties

NC0602112395 Paris AFP in English 1025 GMT 6 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Feb 6 (AFP)—Iran favors normalizing ties with Iraq but Baghdad's lack of "sincerity" and its support for Iranian opposition groups is a major obstacle, Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said in an interview published Monday.

Velayati also told the daily SALAM that he did not foresee an imminent resumption of ties with the United States.

"There is a lack of sincerity in Iraq's attitude towards Iran," he said. "Iraqi officials compromise relations with Iran and use it as a leverage in their great effort to get close to certain Western countries with which we have problems."

The minister was apparently referring to the United States, which spearheaded efforts to isolate Iraq after its invasion of Kuwait in August 1990.

He said the two neighbors were also divided by Baghdad's support for Iranian opposition groups, notably the main armed rebel faction, the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization.

"Every time we were to have negotiations, there was an attack from the opposition groups based in Iraq," Velayati said. "This will definitely not create a friendly atmosphere for normalized ties."

Iran and Iraq, which fought a bitter war from 1980 to 1988, have exchanged several delegations in the past two years to discuss improving ties. But a visit to Iraq by Velayati has been announced and canceled several times for various reasons.

The minister said Iran intended to sent a delegation of experts to Baghdad, but was waiting for an agreement to be reached on the timing. The visit could lead to a trip to Iraq by Velayati himself, he said.

Velayati also said he did not see Tehran and Washington re- establishing ties "in the near future," broken in 1980 after Iranian radical students stormed the US embassy here and took its staff hostage.

"Those (in Iran) who think relations with the United States are a solution to our difficulties are definitely mistaken," he said.

There have been some calls for talks toward restoring ties with Washington in the past two years, but Iranian leaders have publicly rejected "all contacts and negotiations" with the United States.

Tehran Protests to UN Over U.S. Gulf 'Nuisances'

LD0402121595 Tehran IRNA in English 1158 GMT 4 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] United Nations, New York, Feb. 4, IRNA—Iran's charge d'affaires a.i. in the United Nations, Gholam 'Ali Khoshrow, in a letter to the U.N. secretary general protested against nuisances created for Iranian aircraft and ships by the U.S. warships positioned in the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman.

Sending a letter to the U.N. secretary general, Butrus Butrus- Ghali, here Friday, the Iranian envoy said that the letter had previously been sent to the U.S. Department of State by Iran's interests section in Washington in the Embassy of Pakistan.

Referring to several cases of nuisances created for the Iranian aircraft and ships by the U.S. warships between October 12 and November 12, the document said that the cases included interception of an Iranian aircraft by a U.S. two-engine anti-submarine aircraft, creating nuisances for a naval brigade carrying out the 'Nahang' manoeuver, filming an Iranian ship by a U.S. helicopter, and questioning two Iranian oil tankers. Protesting these illegal activities by the government of the United States, the letter called for putting an end to such actions.

Radio Criticizes U.S. Human Rights Report

LD0502132595 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1052 GMT 5 Feb 95

[Unattributed commentary]

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[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In its annual report, the U.S. State Department has once again spoken of the violation of human rights in Iran.

The report, a review of the last Christian year's performance, repeats the earlier lies and questions a number of cultural issues including religious teachings. The interesting matter is that the U.S. State Department, by placing the Islamic Republic of Iran in the same category as the countries such as North Korea and Cuba, has once again admitted to the influence of its political viewpoints on the preparation of this annual report.

In fact, the U.S. State Department has once again revealed its secret objectives by deciding to ignore the poor respect for human rights in Palestine, Bosnia, and many other countries and by keeping silent about the pitiful situation of humans who live in the countries who are America's allies and friends.

The issuing of this repetitious report is indicative of the State Department's oft-recurring weakness and reactionary policy of America towards political issues, and shows that the State Department does not recognize any other way for the implementation of Washington's political objectives, but by resorting to the abuse of the human rights issue.

Of course, it is obvious that this method will also prove ineffective for the implementation of Washington's policies at the current conditions, due to that country's double standards and its military and political performance throughout the world. Therefore we should agree with the Americans who oppose the policies of the U.S. Secretary of State by questioning his foreign policy methods and raising objections about his performance during the last two years. Those who oppose it believe that recent U.S. foreign policy and its global military performance in the past few years have enhanced the level of general hatred towards America. So much so that American nationals are facing problems in their everyday life wherever they live in the world. [passage omitted]

In fact, the Los Angeles riots of two years ago, and the subsequent unrest that followed, showed the level of disorder in the human rights situation in America. It also showed the level of severe economic discrimination which black and Red Indian nationals of that country are facing.

It is natural for the U.S. authorities to be concerned about their domestic situation more any other issue. They see the pro- Islamic tendencies of the black Americans as an early warning for the downfall of their imperialistic dictatorship.

U.S. Efforts To 'Obstruct' Azeri Ties Viewed

NC0302171595 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 28 Jan 95 p 16

[Unattributed political commentary: "America and the Policy of Preventing Iran's Infiltration in the North"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Baku yesterday issued a statement condemning Washington's efforts to inflict blows on Iran's relations with the Republic of Azerbaijan. Before this, the American Embassy in Baku had accused Iran of supporting international terrorism and had voiced America's opposition with Iran's participation in the oil agreement between the Republic of Azerbaijan and a Western oil consortium!

The said oil agreement has been the most talked-about economic agreement of Azerbaijan after its independence and one of the largest economic agreements in Central Asia and the Caucasus. Under the agreement that was signed in Baku on 20 September 1994, the Republic of Azerbaijan handed over oil exploitation activities in three oil fields in the Caspian Sea to the oil consortium for a period of 30 years. This consortium comprises four American companies, in addition to British, Norwegian, Russian, Turkish and a joint Saudi-American company.

After the signing of the agreement, the Republic of Azerbaijan agreed to hand over 5 percent of its shares to the Islamic Republic of Iran—an agreement which would appear to be normal in view of the various close relationships between the two countries. However, this caused concern among the Western sides of the agreement and especially in America.

Washington has now stated that if the government of Azerbaijan does not exclude Iran from the agreement, it will have to continue implementation of the agreement without the American companies. The White House's recent policy is within the framework of the colonialist and exploitation policies that former colonialist powers now acting as the so-called "center" are pursuing: Economic domination as a means to acquire the necessary elements for infiltrating the economic, cultural, political, and other fields of other countries.

Last year too when Iran and Kazakhstan signed an agreement on the construction of the Kazakhstan gas pipeline to pass through Iranian territory to Europe, Washington issued a similar warning to Kazakh President Nazarbayev who was on a visit to America and he was asked by Clinton to alter the route of the gas pipeline from Iran to Turkey.

Such divisive efforts form part of Washington's general policies in preventing the infiltration of the Islamic Republic of Iran in its northern borders because apart from the geopolitically favorable conditions that the many common religious, cultural, and historic ties between Iran and the newly-independent republics of the former Soviet Union have created, they have also paved the way for further cooperation.

Therefore, at a time when these republics are burning in the hell of the former policy of socialist centralism and the current importation of the Western system and ideologies, any sign of their inclination toward genuine

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Islamic cultures and systems is viewed by the West and especially by America with great concern.

Within this context, the West prefers trends in this area to be toward the systems that are propagated by Saudi Arabia and Turkey rather than a trend toward Iran.

As for Azerbaijan too, its improving relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran have always created concern in Washington. During the current year dozens of high-ranking Iranian officials have travelled to Azerbaijan, and Geydar Aliyev too has visited Iran. During all these visits, various cooperation agreements have been signed between the two sides and the two governments have agreed to increase their volume of trade as much as possible.

Although it is possible that Washington may see it in its short- term interests to obstruct Iran's natural relations with its neighbors—especially in the north—White House officials should accept the fact that these governments too have their own interpretation of what is expedient for them—distancing themselves from plots hatched by arrogant governments.

Paper on U.S. Embassy's 'Disgusting' Baku Stance

NC0402204495 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 30 Jan 95 pp 1, 4

[Editorial: "America's Intention To Denigrate the Young Republics"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The American Embassy in Baku has issued a statement protesting the Islamic Republic of Iran's participation in the Caspian Sea oil consortium, warning the government of the Republic of Azerbaijan against this decision, and threatening the officials in Baku to make them review their decision.

The issuing of such a statement by an embassy in the capital of a foreign country is unprecedented in diplomatic practice and is tantamount to open American intervention in the domestic affairs of Azerbaijan. Washington has thus tried to denigrate Baku as much as possible and to show the people and statesmen in that newly independent country that it is America who has the right to make decisions in the newly independent republics in Central Asia and in the Caucasus. The United States also wants to show that these republics do not have the right to make their own decisions or to determine who their political or economic partners are.

This American position toward the government in Baku is extremely insulting and disgusting. It is still not completely clear how the Republic of Azerbaijan will react to this illogical behavior by the American ambassador. However, it seems improbable that this impudent act by America's diplomatic envoy in Baku will go unanswered.

The truth is that by treating the young republics like this today, America is hoping for a future pay off when it interferes in their domestic affairs in the future.

This method and this unprincipled behavior is diplomatically unprecedented even in countries that are under total American domination. But by adopting an independent and firm stance, the government in Baku can prevent America from repeating such interventions. If not, the officials in Washington will be enticed to interfere even more.

Incoming reports indicate that America has threatened the Baku officials by saying that if the Islamic Republic of Iran participates in the Caspian Sea oil consortium, America will refrain from participating. Various points can be made in relation to this. For instance, that the smell of Baku's oil has intoxicated America. If possible and if the Azerbaijanis are not alert, America will try to devour Azerbaijan's oil and to portray itself as the "guardian of the Baku government." Even today, the Americans are trying to portray this image and to tell the Baku government what to do. If this hegemonistic American attitude is not confronted today, tomorrow will definitely be too late.

This American behavior is disgusting, for although the Americans have not yet gotten anywhere, they are issuing orders and trying to make decisions which are for the Baku government to make, and to impose their political will on an independent country.

There are clear responses that can be given to America's threats. In today's global oil industry and economy, America is not the sole effective source of oil and its major derivatives, so it is naturally not in a position to intimidate countries with its threats.

Let us not forget that when the Kuwaiti oil wells were burning, America proposed a three-year timetable to extinguish the fire. But with the arrival of special oil workers from the Islamic Republic of Iran on the scene, even America stopped trying to "kill time" and entered the undeclared competition to extinguish the well fires at a faster pace so that it would not be accused of procrastinating.

Today even American experts admit that the Iranian oil workers are highly efficient and skilled. The capabilities of these efficient oil workers in the fields of oil exploration, drilling, and exploitation as well as in extremely sensitive activities such as the maintenance of Iran's oil industries, are world famous.

In the Kuwaiti example, we saw how the effective presence of the Islamic Republic's oil workers was considered a positive development and how our oil experts even tried to train the Kuwaitis how to extinguish the fires. They paved the way for the Kuwaitis to feel independent in managing their own oil fields, and they instilled a feeling of "national pride" in them.

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This is why the Americans are worried today. They are worried that with the presence of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Caspian Sea oil consortium, they will not be able to carry out their plans for pillaging as they wish. They are worried that Iran's presence will gradually elevate the Azerbaijanis to a favorable level of self-sufficiency.

What Washington wants is for the young republics to reach out for help to America forever and for them to feel that they will always need America. But in addition to being a good example of good cooperation between two neighboring and fraternal countries, the responsible presence of our oil workers in the Republic of Azerbaijan can also be a good pattern for sincere relations among regional countries. This is why both Tehran and Baku insist that such cooperation continue, even if the spiteful American statesmen are enraged over such sincere relations.

Opposition Reports 22 Jan 'Uprising' in Tehran

NC0602090495 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1630 GMT 5 Feb 95

[Joint statement issued by four parties and organizations on 22 January]

[FBIS Translated Text] On 18 January youths staged an uprising at the Azadi Stadium, clashing with law-enforcement forces and setting fire to stadium installations before taking their activity into Tehran's streets. Although the pretext for this uprising was the expulsion of two [soccer] players by the referee, it immediately developed into a political protest against the regime. With its antiregime slogans and street clashes with revolution guards, the protesting youths have added yet another link to the chain of rage that the people are displaying in the various cities. The latest display was the immense uprising by the Qazvin people.

Incoming reports indicate that revolution guards of the Islamic regime, who have recently been granted legal authority by the Majles to shoot at street demonstrators, opened fire on demonstrators who were flooding into Tehran's streets from the Azadi Stadium. They killed at least three in the first moments of the protest. Various reports speak of hundreds of wounded and about 2,000 arrests.

The Iranian youths' uprisings in sports stadiums should be categorized under the same heading as the youths' protests and struggles on university campuses. All these are signs of the dissatisfaction and rebellion of a generation that has been deprived by the Islamic Republic's rule over various aspects of life. That generation faces a rotten life today and feels concern over its uncertain future. The youths' uprising and protests cannot be considered to be separate from the general dissatisfaction of the Iranian people. This dissatisfaction is like an active volcano that rumbles every so often and in one place or aother and warns of a growing sea of fire that will erupt under the feet of the Islamic regime.

While condemning the Islamic regime for opening fire on the demonstrators and killing some, we express our concern over the fate of the arrested people and demand that pressure be inflicted on this regime for their immediate release.

[Signed] The Democratic Party of Kordestan of Iran; the Feda'iyan-e Khalq Unity Organization; the People's Fedai'yan Guerrillas—Minority; and the Organization of Iranian Revolutionary Workers—Rah-e Kargar

[Date] 2 Bahman 1373, 22 January 1995

Radio on 'Failure' of Cairo Quadripartite Summit

NC0402073695 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 4 Feb 95

[Commentary by News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] Late last week three Arab leaders and the Zionist prime minister met in a hasty session in Cairo and discussed the Middle East compromise process. Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, King Husayn of Jordan, PLO Leader Yasir 'Arafat, and Zionist Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin were the participants in the session.

Many political analysts believe that, although this session was held on the pretext of discussing the compromise process, it cannot be interpreted as proof of the participants' trust in the so-called peace process. It can only be interpreted as proof of their deep concern and fear that the process will fail. This concern stems from the fact that for some time now the compromise process has been facing a severe stalemate, and probably deadlock is the weakest word that can be used to describe it.

The Arab countries that have compromised with the Zionist regime either in the past or recently and the leaders who have participated in the quadripartite session consider the failure to ensure the compromise to be dangerous for them, hence their efforts to reactivate it. Based on their policies as well as their international alliances, these governments have chosen compromise as their alternative. Thus, they now feel that a failure of this process will have dangerous repercussions for them and may lead to radical changes in their countries.

News sources consider the fact that the refusal by the participants in the quadripartite Cairo session to make any comments on the outcome of the session as proof of the failure of the session to reactivate the compromise process; and this, in turn, shows the extent of the crisis that the process is facing.

In this session, the Egyptians called for setting a date for Palestinian elections. The Palestinians called for a halt in the building of settlements on the West Bank. The

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Israelis called on the Arab leaders to decisively condemn terrorism. However, none of these demands were met because of the differences of opinion of the participants. This, which is considered to be the most significant outcome of the session, is yet another indication that the countdown has started for the compromise p

Radio on 'Weakening' Damascus Declaration Process

NC0602073595 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 6 Feb 95

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] The talks among the Damascus Declaration countries' foreign ministers opened in Cairo last night. The participants discussed security and economic cooperation among the member countries. Participating are the six Persian Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] members, Syria, and Egypt, which signed the six-plus-two pact in March 1991 following Iraq's occupation of Kuwait.

News agencies have reported that the Damascus Declaration foreign ministers will choose a solution that achieves some middle ground between the two plans proposed by Egypt and by the GCC; Egypt's proposal considers economic cooperation to be the most important pivot and calls for forming an Arab economic group, while the GCC proposal grants priority to political and security cooperation.

Political analysts believe that since other elements also affect the decisions made by the countries participating in the Cairo session, it is not very likely that this session will yield substantial results. These analysts believe that the six-plus-two pact was signed during the occupation of Kuwait with only security motives in mind, and Egypt and Syria would extend their security umbrella to the southern Persian Gulf littoral states.

At the time, America, which needed Egyptian and Syrian participation in the war against Iraq, did not react negatively to the pact. But at the end of the military operations in the oil war, America signed separate security pacts with each one of the GCC members. It has practically placed these countries under its security umbrella and has destroyed the grounds for implementing the Damascus Declaration.

By subtracting the security dimension of the Damascus pact, the pact lost its most important characteristic, but, because of its participants' mutual interests, cooperation continued and the pact did not disintegrate.

By changing the nature of the Damascus pact, Egypt and Syria, which profit from cooperation with the oil-rich Persian Gulf emirates, hoped the pact would continue its activities with economic and political cooperation. The GCC members who were terrified by Iraq's aggression against Kuwait intended to keep Iraq in isolation with the cooperation of Egypt and Syria until the danger from Iraq was averted.

These mutual motives have helped to pave the way for continuing the six-plus-two pact sessions. But fresh developments in the region are weakening this already weak process. The emergence of political differences among the Damascus Pact members on lifting the sanctions [on Iraq] and other regional problems may place a serious problem in front of what is left of the six-plus-two pact.

Paper on Arrest of MKO Members at UN in New York

NC0302154395 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 24 Jan 95 p 2

["Special Report" column]

[FBIS Translated Text] Two members of the Monafeqin [Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization, MKO] group were arrested by the UN security police for illegal entry into the UN Headquarters building in New York.

Recently during the UN Human Rights Commission's vote on the human rights situation in Iran, two members of the Monafeqin group illegally entered the UN building but were identified and arrested by the UN security police.

Three years ago entry was permitted to members of this group who were using permits issued by nongovernmental organizations to enter the UN building until it was banned.

In the latter part of his term of office, former UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar stressed that members of Rajavi's group were not considered members of nongovernmental organizations and ordered his security deputy to cancel these permits and to ban their entry into the building.

According to an informed source, after investigations on how these people entered the building, the UN security police stated that the two had entered under the aegis of the permanent Polish delegation. No reports have been published yet on reaction by the Iranian delegation at the United Nations to this act by Poland.

Pakistan

Sindh Home Department: 64 Casualties in Karachi

BK0602041495 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 0300 GMT 6 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Sindh Home Department in a press note issued in Karachi last night said 21 persons were shot dead and 43 sustained bullet injuries in different incidents reported in the city. The press note said some terrorists resorted to indiscriminate firing

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with sophisticated weapons on Harkatal Ansar camp, Liaqatabad, engaged in collecting donations for Kashmiris. As a result, 11 persons were killed while 14 others sustained multiple wounds. Ten others were killed in firing in other parts of the city in various firing incidents.

Rallies, Violence Mark Pro-Kashmir Strike

BK0602002695 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1400 GMT 5 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Life came to a standstill when thousands of men, women, and people belonging to various walks of life gathered at different places, took out processions and rallies, and held meetings today to express their complete solidarity with the struggling people of Kashmir. They paid tributes to the supreme sacrifices being rendered by Kashmiris against the use of brute force by Indian occupation authorities in the held territory and urged the international community and world bodies to respond to the calls made at various international forums for giving the Kashmiri people their basic right to self-determination.

The participants of the rallies, processions, and meetings condemned Indian repression in occupied Kashmir, demanded cessation of cruelties, and urged the United Nations to honor its commitments by implementing its resolutions on Kashmir. All shops and business centers, offices, and other establishments remained closed and vehicular traffic was completely off the roads to protest against Indian atrocities and to demonstrate unity with the Kashmiri people locked in their liberation struggle. Radio Pakistan's representatives, posted across the country, in their reports say thousands of people converged at different points in various cities to protest against Indian brutalities in occupied Kashmir and express their complete solidarity with the people of Kashmir. They passed a number of resolutions calling upon the international community to condemn Indian repression and help Kashmiri people by forcing India to honor its international commitments on the UN resolutions and get Kashmiri people their right to self-determination.

The prime minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Sardar Mohammad Abdul Qayyum Khan, called on the prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, in Islamabad today and discussed the latest situation obtaining in Kashmir. They also discussed the Kashmir liberation struggle, national affairs, and matters of mutual interest. The federal minister for Kashmir affairs, Mr. Mohammad Afzal Khan, was also present at the meeting.

The All Parties Jammu and Kashmir Hurriyat Conference has warned that failure to resolve Kashmir dispute could endanger peace in South Asia. This has been stated in a memorandum presented (?to) the UN secretary general in New York by the convener of Executive Council of the conference. The memorandum reminds that there remains only one solution to the Kashmir problem and that is a fair, free, and impartial plebiscite under UN supervision. It says no political process, except the UN resolutions, can settle the dispute peacefully. The memorandum adds that Indian authorities have resorted to systematic human rights violations to forcibly silence the unanimous voice of the Kashmiris.

[Hong Kong AFP in English at 1355 GMT on 5 February adds in a Karachi-datelined report: "Gunmen shot dead 11 people Sunday in an attack on a roadside stall collecting money for Kashmiris as part of a one day general strike in Pakistan to support the separatist campaign in Indian Kashmir, police said. The unidentified assailants drove past spraying bullets on the crowded tent set up by the Moslem party Harkat-ul-Ansar, in Karachi's Lalukhet area, according to police and witnesses. Four people were reported wounded. The marquee was covered in banners backing the Moslem Kashmiri cause. Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto had called for a nationwide show of solidarity for Kashmiris. No claim for the attack was immediately made. But Pakistan's largest city has been plagued by violence linked to ethnic, political and sectarian violence. There were 700 killings last year and scores have been killed already this year. The Lalukhet killings raised the death toll to 28 in two days."]

Jamaat Amir Opposes Military Exercises With U.S.

BK0402140395 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 4 Feb 95 p 12

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Lahore, Feb 3: Qazi Hussain Ahmad, Amir Jamaat-e-Islami, has appealed to Pakistani nation to observe complete wheel-jam strike on Feb 5, to express its solidarity with the freedom struggle of the Kashmiris.

Addressing a Juma congregation the Jamaat Amir warned the Ummah that jews and Hindus' conspiracy against the Islamic Ummah was growing and they were active against the religious freedom of the Muslims. He pointed out that anti-Islamic forces very tactfully and in an organised manner were labelling the Islamic religous movements as "fundamentalists" and "terrorists". The Amir said in fact it was US that along with other western imperialist forces was active as "world terrorist". The recent example of this terrorism was Middle East, where they were active in establishing the supremacy of Israel.

Qazi Hussain Ahmad, referring to Thursday summit meeting in Cairo, said it was aimed at protecting Israeli interests.

The Amir of Jamaat-e-Islami described the joint military exercises of Pakistan and America as against Pakistan national interests. He said the US wanted to make India a superior force in the area. "The suggestion of the US defence secretary that Pakistan, India and US should hold joint exercises is a very dangerous move. America wants to get Pakistan military secrets passed over to India. [no closing quotation mark as published]

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Editorial Urges U.S. Pressure on Kashmir Issue

BK0402135595 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 4 Feb 95 p 7

[Editorial: "Peace in South Asia"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] It must have taken a great leap of faith for the US defence secretary William Perry to think that his country can succeed in building peace and trust in South Asia. But even if the US wants to reach where it wants to, more than faith, it needs to take tough stands and exercise some tough choices. The foremost problem that requires a show of decisiveness on the part of the American administration is Kashmir—the source of all regional instability. There is enough evidence on the ground to suggest that realisation by US policy makers of this fact is increasing. Yet so far this realisation has been confined to pious statements of concern alone, and has not meant concrete action. True, taking a decisive position on Kashmir is like stirring a hornet's nest, for so deeply polarised are the positions of both India and Pakistan on the issue. But there are aspects of the Kashmir problem that do not allow for two opinions.

The most obvious of these is the Indian troops inhumanity to the Kashmiris. This has been well-documented. The 1994 State Department Human Rights Report on India, which tells a lurid tale of unspeakable woes the benighted occupying forces are visiting on the freedom fighters, is the latest proof. Others have been provided by Amnesty International and various human rights organisations from all across the world. The US needs to put more pressure on India to abate its relentless suppression of the Kashmiris. Peace and trust in South Asia will remain a pipe dream if part of the regional landscape is soaked in the blood of a nation.

The other aspect of Kashmir that requires greater measure of decisiveness by US policy makers is clearer acknowledgement of the right of the Kashmiris to self-determination and freedom. There has been a marked change in the US attitude towards Kashmir over the past few years. This has partially manifested in the reiteration of the disputed nature of the Kashmir territory by important officials like Robin Raphel. Yet having accepted that Kashmir is an unsettled issue between Pakistan and India the US has fought shy of endorsing the freedom struggle in the Indian occupied Kashmir.

The closest endorsement has been mealy-mouthed and guarded hints at the need to settle the Kashmir issue with an eye to the will of the Kashmiris. It ought to do better, and be more direct. Its suspicions of Pakistan's role in fomenting trouble in the held valley aside, the US cannot brush the Kashmiris' right to resist Indian control under the carpet of its policy of evenhandedness. It has to treat the freedom struggle with the seriousness it deserves. It must make it clear to the Indians that they have to let loose from their colonial claws the future of a nation. South Asia needs peace alright. But there can be none if Kashmiris do not have their freedom.

Sri Lanka

Government Offers Compromise in Peace Talks

BK0302140295 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 3 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The four committees appointed to monitor the cessation of hostilities in the north and east will begin functioning next week after the foreign heads of these committees are briefed by the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] leadership on Sunday [5 February]. Official and military sources said that the delay in the functioning of these committees was caused by the LTTE request that the foreign heads of the committees should be briefed by them before they begin to function. President Chandrika Kumaratunga briefed the two Norwegians who are heading the committee for Trincomalee-Batticaloa-Amparai districts along with the Sri Lankan government nominees a week after the cessation of hostilities took effect on 7 January midnight. On LTTE's side, its spokesmen Anton Balasingham and Tamil Selvan are expected to brief the four foreigners and the LTTE nominees. Officials said the Defense Ministry will fly the two Norwegians, the Dutch and the Canadian representatives to Palali and the ICRC will take them from there to Jaffna. Meanwhile, the government has offered a compromise solution to the west Pooneryn issue by saying that the forward defense line would be withdrawn by 1,000 meters from the Pooneryn (?zone). The Pooneryn issue and the embargo issues had caused the delay in the ongoing peace talks.

Defense Secretary Reportedly Resigns Post

BK0402162795 Hong Kong AFP in English 1501 GMT 4 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, Feb 4 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's Defence Secretary General Hamilton Wanasinghe Saturday [4 February] tendered his resignation ending weeks of speculation about his premature retirement, official sources said.

Wanasinghe had an unscheduled meeting with President Chandrika Kumaratunga at which he declared his intention to quit, an official source said adding that the resignation was accepted with effect from next Friday.

Kumaratunga, who became the commander-in-chief and defence minister after the November presidential elections, has been keen to revamp the defence establishment, the sources said.

They said Wanasinghe was most likely to be replaced by a senior civil servant, deviating from the usual practice of giving the top bureaucratic slot in the ministry to a retired military officer.

Wanasinghe retired two years ago as the overall commander of all units in the army, navy, airforce and police

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involved in the drive against Tamil Tiger guerrillas to be appointed as defence secretary by the former government.

Local press reports had been referring to Wanasinghe's uneasy relations with Kumaratunga and his impending resignation ever since the new government assumed office in November.

Kadirgamar Comments on Talks With Christopher

BK0402113095 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 4 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] It is a powerful endorsement of the new People's Alliance coalition government's efforts to alleviate the human rights situation in Sri Lanka. U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said that Sri Lanka was one of the happy stories that the State Department could report on in its annual human rights review. Speaking to reporters briefly at the photo opportunity before going in for his meeting with visiting Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar, the secretary lauded the great progress made by Sri Lanka on human rights. [passage omitted]

Kadirgamar said the relations between the United States and Sri Lanka had always been warm and cordial and said Christopher's expression of support for our peace efforts is indeed welcome. He said that Sri Lanka was looking to the international community for support and the European countries have supported in a very handsome manner and was hoping very much that the U.S. would also bless their efforts. Kadirgamar said Christopher had very encouraging words and they were very reassuring as the Sri Lankan Government tried to move the peace process forward.

Earlier in the day, Kadirgamar met with the administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development and also attended a luncheon meeting for the diplomatic corps where Vice President Albert Gore was the keynote speaker. The foreign minister was honored by being asked to sit next to Gore.

Kumaratunga Delivers National Day Address

BK0602013895 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 4 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sri Lanka celebrates her 47th National Day with splendor. The main celebration was conducted at the Independence Square in Colombo this morning.

Addressing the nation, President Chandrika Kumaratunga explained the measures taken by the government to make national independence more meaningful, giving an opportunity for the people to enjoy benefits profitably. She expressed the hope that the government will receive the necessary understanding, cooperation, and undiminished trust from the people to carry on this task. She reaffirmed her commitment to a peaceful settlement of the war in the northeast. Sixty percent of the people live in poverty, however the money spent within a minute on the war is 41,000 rupees. This is not being used for the prosperity of the people nor (?to) their health, education, and housing facilities. She asked it is not correct that all these scarce national resources are being spent with singular aim of crowning destruction as the victor on the throne of a cruel war.

The ethnic issue was extended and transformed into grave proportion by the previous administration. It now gives rise to the war which has caused destruction unknown in the centuries-old history of Sri Lanka. Through the peace process, the government has come to a milestone of the cessation of hostilities. This a hard path. She said that she did not see ahead of her a path that was clear and easy and free of many pitfalls and dangers. It is absolutely necessary to end the war to obtain real freedom for the people. True political independence cannot be expected without attending or finding solution to the problems that affect the different communities. The government received a massive pledge from the people to bring peace in the country. The president pledged to implement this bringing justice to all communities.

Work has begun on the important task of constitutional reforms to make the country's freedom stronger and more meaningful. This will be carried out giving due attention to the need to abolish the executive presidency. It is aimed at evolving a new representative democracy more suitable to the country by combining the electoral system, the election scheme, and the proportional representation scheme.

The president pointed out that the government is taking action to accelerate economic development. It has been able to create a suitable environment within a short period to achieve the aspirations of the people, cleaning the political and administrative machinery. The people now enjoy the right of living without political victimization and terror. But resolving the problems of poverty, malnutrition, unemployment, and housing still remains.

Referring to the media, President Kumaratunga said that her government has given life to the right of the media to work in freedom. The media today enjoys a measure of freedom which has at times led to some doubts whether there are no ethical standards in media freedom. She disclosed that it was her hope that this opportunity given to all sections of the media to seek high standards and a sense of responsibility is not used to act as a threat to the victories achieved by the people.

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